THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, AUGUST 1, 1864. No. 19.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

SANITARY FAIR AT DUBUQUE, IOWA.

If the value of services were measured by the extent of the sacrifice made in rendering them, it would probably be found that no State in the Union had done so much for the war as Iowa. She has sent, up to the present, nearly one-seventh of her entire population to the field. Some districts have nearly all their men in the army; and in most of them a very large proportion of the farm labor has devolved on the women; and on women, too, it must not be forgotten, whose ordinary duties are as heavy as ever, and who are entirely unused to the extraordinary ones with which they now find themselves burdened. And when it is remembered that all this is done and endured not for safety, or for independence, or gain, but for the perpetuation of the blessings of free government, or in other words, for a remote good—that it will be the future generation, rather than this one, which will reap the full benefit of these great efforts—it is doubtful if there is on record any other so splendid example of the heroism, farsightedness, and self-abnegation with which freedom long enjoyed, can gift a whole community.

After having given so many men to the ranks, it need not have excited any great surprise if a comparatively poor State like Iowa, which is still struggling with the usual difficulties of frontier life, had left to others the task of ministering to the soldiers' comfort. But so far from this, her exertions for the relief of the sick and wounded have been just as remarkable as her exertions in recruiting. Some of the incidents connected with the present fair belong to the romance of charity.

There is an amount of devotion behind

such contributions as twenty dollars from a man whose three sons, (all he has,) are in the army, "whose wife has to drive his reaper," and whose "daughters assist in binding his grain," and of more than a dollar "from every human being residing within the limits of a country away two hundred miles in the interior," of which the accounts of philanthropy do not furnish many instances; of which people living in a commercial community, where money and labor are generally plenty, can form but little idea.

Whatever the results of this war may be, this much is certain, that no community ever made such efforts and sacrifices as are recorded in the history both of our volunteering and of our Sanitary fairs without being ennobled and purified by them. And the fact that they have been so widely and freely made at the North, certainly goes far to refute the generally received notions of the debasing effect on the character of long absorption in money getting.

Mr. Norris says:

"The Northern Iowa Fair Association was organized on the 1st of March last. Gen. H. A. Wiltse, U. S. Sur.-Gen. of this District, was selected as President, who, with an efficient Board of Managers, has had the direction and control of its affairs, and who have devoted their active energies to its interests.

At the time of its organization, a resolution was adopted, pledging its proceeds to the Northwestern Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

My time during the month preceding the Fair, was devoted largely to exciting the public mind upon the subject, and preparing it for such a movement. My hopes and designs in regard to the results of the Fair, were not measured by the amount of money that would be raised by it, but I believed it could be made instrumental in reviving our work throughout the whole north half of the State; and, also, of attaching our people in their Sanitary operations to the U. S. Sanitary Commission. In all my operations for the Fair, this object was kept steadily in view. A few facts will show the extent to which my anticipations have been realized.

The shipment of hospital supplies to the Chicago Commission, which had become very light from this State, was immediately so stimulated, that in the month of March we sent to that Commission 202 packages. In the month of April, their receipts from us amounted to 364 packages, 136 more than from the whole State of Illinois. For May, they received from us near 700 packages, 171 more than from Illinois. I have not the figures for June; they are, I am however aware, equally large; and some 200 packages more were shipped from Dubuque after the Fair, which reached Chicago too late to be embraced in the June report. It ought to be remarked that nearly the whole of these supplies were designed to be sent to the credit of the Fair. Many of the receipts credited by the Northwestern Commission reports to local aid societies were designed by the societies to have been credited to the Fair, but they neglected to give notice to that effect at Chicago, hence they were credited to them instead of the Fair, as intended.

Four months' incessant and active toil for, and the gift of thousands of dollars to the U. S. Commission, through the Fair, have identified our aid societies and people fully with that institution. At the last meeting of the State Commission at Desmoines, the delegates to which were from nearly all the aid societies that were at work for our Fair, a resolution was almost unanimously adopted, advising all sanitary societies in the State to send their supplies to the Northwestern Branch of the U. S. Commission.

Fears have been entertained that there would be a relapse of effort on the part of of our sanitary societies after the Fair was over. Every precaution has, however, been taken to prevent such a contingency, and our noble women of Iowa feel, I think, that the present is no time for relaxation of effort.

Large receipts ought not to be anticipated from us at Chicago for a month or two to come, not because labor will be suspended, but because all supplies on hand have been exhausted for the Fair, and our people will have to begin entirely anew. The business of the Fair is not entirely closed up to enable me to give you precise results. The expenses have been less in proportion to receipts, than any other of the great fairs. The receipts, it is hoped,

will reach from $75,000 to $80,000, and the net proceeds will not be far from $70,000. This result seems small when compared with the results of the New York or Philadelphia Fairs, but it must be recollected our population is light, our country new, and our people generally poor. If real ability is taken into account, I am satisfied that our gift upon this holy altar will be justly regarded as greater than that of any other fair that has been held for the Sanitary cause. As was well remarked by President Wiltse, in his opening address, "No donations have been sanctified by greater sacrifices than those made to our Fair." I have been surprised by a great many facts connected with its history. Neighborhoods whose entire male population almost had gone to the war, and whose crops have to be raised and harvested by the females, have contributed largely to its funds. One farmer who gave $20, told me that his three boys, (all he had,) were in the army, and that his wife would be compelled to drive his reaper in the harvest field, and his daughters assist in binding his grain, and in securing his harvest. Kossuth County, away two hundred miles in the interior, gave more than a dollar for every human being residing within its limits.

The Fair over, I shall extend my labors more into the southern portion of the State, though the principal towns in the northern part will require considerable attention. The history of our Fair will be published in a few days. Many items of interest omitted in this brief report will be found in it. To that history for numerous particulars, you are respectfully referred."

LATE MILITARY MOVEMENT ON ST. JOHN'S ISLAND, S. C.

Dr. Marsh reports from Beaufort, S. C., July 16:

Near the close of June, the General commanding gave us timely notice to prepare for an expedition. On the 1st July, the expedition, comprising all the available force of the Department, left Hilton Head, and on the morning of the 2d anchored in North Edisto harbor. Owing to the absence of field batteries, which an accident had detained, we were kept the entire day in an enemy's country, and not five miles from his entrenchments. Towards evening, a brigade under Gen. Birney, unsuccessfully met the enemy entrenched, and were repulsed and returned. On the day following, (July 3d,) the brigades under Generals Saxton and Hatch, disembarked; and on that and the day following, traversed Seabrook and St. John's Islands, by different routes, and on the 5th concentrated their forces in the neighborhood of Legareville, on St. John's Island.

Capt. Low, the obliging Quartermaster at Beaufort, had assigned us transportation "to any extent desired" upon the steamer Peconic, and when the troops took up their march inland, we, by advice of the Commander of the expedition, Gen. Hatch, remained in harbor, as hospital ship, to which the weary, wounded, and those suffering from sun-stroke could be gathered. Medical aid not being abundant, the whole care naturally fell upon the Commission.

In the march across the two islands, the troops suffered severely—the thermometer for hours standing from 95° to 103°. More or less skirmishing constantly occurred; and whatever disabilities followed of any nature, Surgeons and Line Officers sent back to us, often with a commendatory note—those requiring our care.

On the 5th, this march having been completed, and the base of operations changed to the north part of St. John's Island, near Legareville, we were ordered to proceed to sea, and into Stono River, opposite to our forces. This was accomplished, and a portion of the accumulated sick were transported to another steamer, about midnight of the 6th.

On the morning of the 7th we constructed quarters upon shore, and through the day cared for the disabled, and assisted in erecting hospitals for wounded expected from the front. In these labors we were greatly assisted by Dr. Mudge, of the New York Engineers, professionally, and by volunteer aid from the same Engineers in pitching tents and arranging quarters. And here it is proper to remark, that on three expeditions we have experienced the generous aid of these same noble men; they seek us out, ascertain our wants, and their skill supplies every deficiency. On the evening of this day a scene was presented, that if witnessed, would have strengthened many a weary

hand, toiling for these devoted men. We had seventy-eight for whom we could find no shelter. Quickly from bales of straw, which we had brought with us, bed-sacks and pillow ticks were filled, and placed between the cotton rows, the patients put upon them, and a quilt thrown over them; each had a couch to himself. And when at sunset, our attendants passed among them, giving to each patient the kind and quality of food appropriate, one could easily believe its rays had seldom lingered upon a holier scene.

About 11 P. M. of the 7th, the wounded began to pour in from the front; and for the succeeding forty-eight hours, at which time the orders were given for re-embarking and the expedition to return to Port Royal, every moment was incessantly employed in washing, clothing, and feeding the men, and assisting at the operating table.

On the 10th, the last of the expedition left the placid waters of the Stono; its duration brief, but terribly exhausting.

Most of the troops had never made a march, or seen a battle; others had passed months in inactivity; and all poorly prepared for a campaign in an enemy's country, over scorching sands, and an atmosphere seldom less than fever heat. The legitimate consequences followed. The Surgeons prescribed, and operated; and by tacit consent, all other duties devolved upon the Commission.

Beside medicines, and two hundred husk mattresses, the Commission furnished all; and hence the great expenditure of stores, apparently not called for by the character of the expedition.

In this connection it is due to Surgeon Benton, Chief Medical Officer, to state, that the ample stores which he had provided, from unforseen circumstances, were not available when needed, and hence the necessity for so large a draft upon our supplies.

It affords me especial pleasure to testify so the cheerful manner in which the arduous and almost incessant labors of the employees of the Commission were performed.

For eighty-four consecutive hours, not one man among them secured, in all, eight hours' sleep. And I desire particularly to acknowledge the valuable aid rendered us by the Quartermaster's Department on this and on all occasions. Indeed, so far as transportation is concerned, the work of the Commission would be most efficiently discharged if left entirely to this Department.

Appended is a list of isues:

3 cases beef stock.	32 galls. whisky.
3 cases milk.	3 ounces morphine.
3 cases coffee.	3 lbs. chloroform.
70 lbs. tea.	5 lbs. soap.
3 cases corn starch.	3 lbs. sponge.
15 bbls. crackers.	3 bbls. old pieces.
5 lbs. arrow root.	2 bbls. bandages.
75 lbs. chocolate.	100 quilts.
15 cases tomatoes.	50 blankets.
3 cases farina.	440 shirts.
2 cases gelatine.	475 pairs drawers.
2 boxes jelly.	450 pairs socks.
2 bbls. sugar.	475 towels.
75 lbs. ham.	600 handkerchiefs.
40 lbs. cheese.	131 pairs slippers.
5 bbls. onions.	500 pillow ticks.
29 casks pickles.	250 bed sacks.
5 galls. vinegar.	12 lanterns.
5 bbls. dry toast.	48 tin cups.
2 boxes b. brandy.	21 basins.

Nearly all which were consumed upon the field.

DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-SCORBUTICS IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

We have received reports from our agents engaged in the work of distributing anti-scorbutic supplies in the army before Petersburg, as well as acknowledgments from surgeons and other officers, some extracts from which may serve to give some idea of the nature and extent of the work. Mr. Lightship, who was sent in charge of the party assigned to that duty in the Fifth Army Corps, says:

We left City Point Hospital about eight o'clock A. M., and arrived at the headquarters of the 5th Corps about ten o'clock. We visited the headquarters of the divisions, conversed with three of the generals, and ascertained their opinion of the doing of the Commission. We also visited the men in the batteries and camps. They all spoke well of the Sanitary, and thanked us for their fourth of July dinner. The men said they had received during the past ten days pickled onions, fresh onions, potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, and canned meats. They all said they had received some portion of the goods that were sent to them, and that they were told when it was given them, that it was a gift from the Sanitary Commission. They all said that if they could receive some fresh vegetables every few days, they would be a great deal better fitted for fighting. They seemed pleased to see us, and kept saying, "God bless the Sanitary," and such expressions. I asked Gen. Griffin if he could give us any sug-

gestions with reference to the wants of the men in the field. He said that there was little use of sending *canned* meats to the front, as the men were well supplied with *fresh* meats, and that vegetables were a great deal better. He also recommended porter for the men. He told me if the men could receive vegetables and porter every week, that there would not be one-third of the present number sick. He also suggested, by way of a joke, that if the Commission could send out a quantity of rain, it would be a great Sanitary measure. Gen. Ayres and Gen. Hays spoke of the use of vegetables in the army, and hoped the Commission would send out more. I think that a bountiful supply should be sent out to the men as soon as possible. The old proverb, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," would prove very appropriate in their case. I think the Fifth Corps has received its share of the articles sent, and are well aware of where they came from, and seem very grateful for them. We returned in the evening, well pleased with our journey, and satisfied that vegetables sent to the army are not wasted.

The following returns of the distribution in the Fifth Corps have been received:

COMMISSARY DEPT., 4TH DIV., 5TH A. C.,
July 5th, 1864.

MR. J. WARNER JOHNSON,
Sanitary Commission:
CITY POINT, VA.

MY DEAR SIR—Inclosed you will please find statements from the Brig. Commissaries of the disposition made of the supplies received from the Sanitary Commission on July 1st, for distribution amongst the officers and soldiers of this Division:

The following articles were distributed to the officers and men detailed in the different departments, viz.:

24 cans tomatoes, 14 cans chicken, 10 cans turkey, 12 cans mutton, 12 cans beef, 10 cans milk, 4 bottles ginger, 4 bottles blackberry brandy; part of a keg of porter was issued, and the remainder of it sent to Division Headquarters. One bottle of brandy was stolen or lost.

Yesterday I visited the front, and heard from every one great praise bestowed upon your noble Commission, as well as much gratitude expressed toward those at home who provided these luxuries.

This donation of delicacies was made most opportunely, as it afforded the soldiers a fourth of July entertainment.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES MCCLURE,
Capt. and C. S. Volunteers.

—

CAMP NEAR PETERSBURG, VA.,
July 4th, 1864.

Capt. C. MCCLURE,
C. S. 4th Div. 5th A. C.

CAPTAIN—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt through you of the following articles from the Sanitary Commission for distribution to the officers and men of the 2d Brigade, 4th Division, 5th A. C.

108 cans tomatoes.	20 lbs. chewing tobacco.
72 cans chicken.	5 lbs. smoking tobacco.
48 cans turkey.	10 bottles ginger.
98 cans mutton,	3 bottles blackberry brandy.
48 cans beef.	1 keg porter.
48 cans milk.	

Very respectfully,
ALBERT WALKER,
Capt. and C. S. 2d Brigade, 4th Div. 5th A. C.

—

COM'Y DEP'T 1ST BRIG., 4TH DIV., 5TH CORPS,
PETERSBURG, VA., *July 4th*, 1864.

CAPTAIN—Enclosed you will find statement of distribution of Sanitary Stores sent us on the 2d inst.

The troops appear to feel very grateful, and speak in high terms of the Commission.

Very respectfully your ob't serv't,
HENRY C. HALLOWAY.
Captain and C. S.

Abstract of issues of Sanitary Stores to Volunteers near Petersburg, Va., July 2d, 1864.

137 cans tomatoes.	38 cans milk.
58 cans chicken.	20 lbs. tobacco.
38 cans turkey.	5 lbs. smoking tobacco.
72 cans mutton.	5 galls. porter.
36 cans beef.	10 bottles ginger.

—

4TH DIVISION, 5TH CORPS,
July 2d, 1864.

229 1½ lb. cans tomatoes.	40 lbs. chewing tobacco.
144 2 lb. cans chickens.	10 lbs. smoking tobacco.
96 2 lb. cans turkeys.	3½ bbls. porter.
192 2 lb. cans mutton.	2 doz. Jamaica ginger.
96 2 lb. cans beef.	1 doz. blackberry brandy.
96 1 lb. cans milk.	

Received the above of the Sanitary Commission for issue to the officers and men of 4th Division, 5th Corps.

C. MCCLURE,
Capt. and C. S. Vols.

Mr. Newell, who was sent on a similar duty to the 9th Corps a few days later, reports, July 9th:

* * * * *

I visited the head-quarters of Gen. Ledlie and Gen. Wilcox, and had a very satisfactory interview with the Division Commissary of Gen. Potter, thus obtaining information respecting the first three divisions:

1. Capt. Boyd, Corps Commissary, stated that 80 barrels of onions had been received on the 7th of July. He said, also, no barrels of potatoes, but that must be a mistake.

2. The First Division received 8 barrels of potatoes, 18 barrels of onions, 150 heads of cabbage.

3. The Second Division received 9 barrels of potatoes, 22 barrels of onions, and 200 heads of cabbage.

4. The Third Division did not receive

anything. This must have been the fault of the Division Commissary, and so I told Gen. Wilcox's Adjutant. He is now at City Point, and a new Commissary has been appointed.

* * * * *

The Government was issuing potatoes in about the same quantity as the Sanitary issues of onions—a potato to a man. These were 48 hours' rations. The Commissary said that he could not, as I advised, issue beets to one regiment, beans to another, &c., so as to make a good mess of some one kind for each, there would be too much grumbling. The Second Brigade Commissary said that the saur kraut had come in sufficient quantities for the eastern regiments, but was only an aggravation to the western, accustomed to quantities of this, so that he finally sent the whole of a small ration to the latter.

* * *

Lemons are the most grateful of all gifts, as they not only prevent scurvy, &c., like onions, but are a great luxury, and cheer and refresh the men, who make them into lemonade.

Mr. Potter reports, from the same Corps, July 6th:

The following are the essential facts to be reported concerning the Sanitary supplies of anti-scorbutics sent to the Ninth Corps in the field:

The train, loaded with pickles, fresh onions and dried apples, left City Point landing at 12 M. 3d of July. The Sanitary Agents detailed to look after these supplies left later in the day, camped out near the 9th Corps headquarters that night, and reported to Gen. Burnside at 8 o'clock the next morning, July 4. The General received us very cordially, and spoke of the work of the Commission in the highest terms. He knew of the train of supplies that had been sent up the day before; the portion assigned to the 9th Corps (96 bbls.) had been delivered, and already by his Commissary sent to the different Divisions. *He spoke very strongly of the good effects which former supplies of this kind had had upon the men, and hoped the Commission would continue to send them, and even more extensively.* It had been his opinion, he said, from the first, that the sending of such articles to the soldiers in the field before they get sick, and particularly when, as now, they are so much confined to the trenches, is one of the most important ways in which the Sanitary Commission can work.

From the corps headquarters we went to the several division headquarters. In each the supplies had been received in good order, and were to be distributed to the men with their rations either for dinner or supper, and everywhere they were most welcome. Both officers and men spoke of those formerly sent as just the things wanted. The tomatoes, particularly, were very acceptable, and went through the whole corps, giving a large ration to each man. One of our agents remained with each division. I went to the 1st, Gen. Ledlie's. Gen. Ledlie takes a special and personal interest in this work of the Commission, and spoke most heartily of the good it was doing. He has the supplies brought directly to headquarters, and put under the charge of his Provost Marshal, through whom they are distributed *pro rata* to the brigades and regiments. His reason for this is, *that the men may know that these articles are not supplied as regular army rations, but that they come directly from the people at home, through the Sanitary Commission;* and, he added, *that this knowledge by the men of the interest taken in their welfare by friends at home would increase the good effect of the articles.* At dinner time I went through most of the regiments in both the second and first lines of rifle pits of this division. The men were eating the pickles which had been sent from our barge at noon the day before, and they ate them with the greatest relish, and praised the good people who had sent them, and said they wished they could have some such thing every day. There was the greatest call, I think, for tomatoes and fresh onions, especially for the latter. An onion or a pickle seems a small thing to us; but it is a great thing to a man who has to lie there in those rifle pits for four days in succession, with the bullets whistling over his head, especially if he feels that it comes in some sense as a present from home. The commanding officers and surgeons all said "Send more—send as many as you can." Since these articles began to be received, only six days before, the sick report of the 1st Division of the 9th Corps had been reduced from 355 to 258, a reduction which Gen. Ledlie and his Medical Director both attributed mainly to this change of diet. Ordinarily they said they should expect sickness to increase the longer the men are in trenches. Several officers assured me that in their own cases diarrhea had been cured by eating freely of the tomatoes sent them by the Commission. And generally all that I saw myself and learned from others, during the two days I was at the front, convinced me that this new work which the Commission has undertaken of caring for the needs of the well men in the field—not waiting for them to thin the ranks on account of sickness—is one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest, sanitary works of the war; and in my mind there is no doubt of the expediency of continuing and increasing it.

Mr. Leavens writes, July 5th:

* * * * *

We reached the front late in the evening. After losing our way and nearly upsetting the wagon, we camped for the night by the road-side. Next morning we found Gen. Burnside's headquarters, where we left two portions of our goods, one for him and one to be sent to Gen. Ferrero, of the 4th Division, (colored.) A third share we left at Gen. Potter's headquarters, 2d Division. It was given to me to remain in this Division.

My reception by Gen. Potter was very courteous. He kindly granted me the escort of a staff officer to the Brigade Headquarters, with permission to make such inquiries as my duty required. The officer who attended me also very politely showed the various objects of interest at the front.

I found our stores of pickles, onions, &c., in the hands of the Division Commissary, to be distributed during the day. Later in the day I was informed by soldiers with whom I conversed that they had received such articles. I had conversation with Gen. Potter, commanding the Division, Gen. Griffin, of the 1st Brigade, Dr. ——, and many other officers and men in regard to the sanitary condition of the Division. All agreed that the Government rations were now abundant and of good quality; beef, pork, soft bread, beans, rice, &c., being named. Nothing was more needed than such articles as our stores contained, pickles, onions, &c. Almost any strong acid was much craved and needed by the men.

The Commission can do nothing that will be more grateful to the men or more cordially approved by the officers, than to send on all such articles possible. The main articles spoken of were pickles, onions, saur kraut, and lemons. Doubtless stores of similar quality might be added.

Gen. Griffin spoke of ale as a drink, thinking it would be better than the whiskey ration.

* * * * *

The men at the front seemed active and healthy. The Division Hospital was nearly free from wounded. I think the Commission may rest confident that its goods reach the men, as intended, and may also have satisfaction in the wisdom and beneficence of sending forward such supplies.

VETERAN RESERVE CORPS.

Dr. Macgowan, Acting Brigade Surgeon of the Veteran Reserve Corps, also sends us the following strong testimony:

But, to the subject before me. When Gen. Grant changed his base to Port Royal, ten companies of this corps were sent from Alexandria to protect the new base. They were absent on that duty a little less than a month, during which time, their food consisted of pork, beans, and hard tack exclusively, save on two occasions, when fresh beef was served out. The deprivation of fresh vegetables, induced, before the close of the period, incipient scurvy in the command, to the extent of twenty-five per cent. in some companies, and forty per cent. in others. Spongy gums were so prevalent as to indicate that the deprivation if continued a little longer, would have rendered one-half the force wholly unfit for duty.

On their return I made a requisition for lemons, pickles, and such vegetables as were on hand at your agency here, which was instantly complied with, and which afforded timely relief. These men recuperated in part by your bounty, have again deserved well of the country, by aiding to drive the rebels from the threshold of the Capitol.

It must be borne in mind that this prevalence of scurvy, so excessive, and of such rapid development, was among men who had been more or less disabled by wounds or disease before they had earned a place in this American Legion of Honor. Some of them had suffered from scorbutic affections in Tennessee and at White House; they were on duty every other day, and often several days in succession. Consequently, this statement is presented, not as a criterion whereby to gauge the needs and dangers of our armies in this regard, but to show that your prophylactic labors are called for, and to apprise a generous public of the fact. So long as our "boys" have the assurance that they are supported in good faith by the nation, they will not grow weary of battling for the Republic, even if the conflict should be carried into the next century.

Vegetables and other anti-scorbutic articles are still daily issued in large quantities to the Army, outside of the regular issues to Hospitals, and the acknowledgments from surgeons, officers and privates, indicating how highly they are appreciated and how beneficial are their effects, are as regularly received.

It being impossible to get a statement in full of issues for current month, before going to press, we repeat the list published in last number of BULLETIN, adding a letter from Dr. Douglas, explaining manner of distribution, and one from the correspondent of the New York *Times* relative to this part of the Commission's work.

Anti-scorbutics forwarded during the month of June:

207,156 lbs. canned tomatoes, (over 103 tons.)	36,273 galls. pickled cucumbers, (about 1,200 bbls.)
15,030 lbs. canned fruit.	13,334 galls. pickled onions.
574 cans " jellies.	4,719 " tomatoes.

1,106 galls. curried cabbage.	32 bbls. other dried fruit.
16,218 galls. saur kraut.	301 boxes lemons.
100 bbls. fresh onions.	2,400 boxes portable lemonade.
70 bbls. potatoes.	
242 bbls. dried apples.	25 boxes oranges.

CITY POINT, *July 9th.*

DR. N. C. STEVENS,

DEAR SIR—I propose to make the next issue to 9th Corps, and shall be prepared, I think, to-morrow. I have on hand of

Pickled Cucumbers, 200 barrels.
" Onions, 150 "
Potatoes, 100 "

If a barrel of pickled cucumbers will suffice 500 men, 50 barrels will certainly give a good ration to every man in the 9th Corps; the same of pickled onions. Of potatoes, the Army ration is 30 barrels to 100 men. Our barrels will weigh about 130 lbs.

If I send you of potatoes 75 bbls., you will have about 10,000 lbs. of potatoes, which will give you a good ration.

Say then—50 bbls. Cucumbers, pickled.
50 " Onions, "
75 " Potatoes, fresh.

Total, 175 bbls.

It will require twenty-five wagons to take them to the front. Please procure them; and telegraph me when they are on the way.

Yours, &c.,
J. H. DOUGLAS, M.D.

The *New York Times* correspondent, writing from camp, July 20, says:

The pathetic note from George Rodgers, of Sheridan's cavalry, printed in last *Sunday's Times*, has attracted my attention. It is evident that he and his comrades have been "shared out" in the general distribution of onions. That the savory anti-scorbutics did not come their way is certain to be regretted, and without stopping to inquire who was guilty of the oversight, I must correct the false impression this complaint has doubtless left upon the minds of many who read it. I can do this without much trouble, and the kind-hearted public who have subscribed so generously for the purchase of the vegetables, and the little children, who sacrificed their pyrotechnic pleasures on the Fourth of July, for the same worthy object, will be glad to know that their bounty was not misapplied. The Sanitary Commission has been the faithful agent in the distribution. For this assertion I have read the proof in handsome notes of acknowledgment from Major-Generals Warren, Smith, Burnside, and a half score more of Division and Brigade Commanders. Quantities of vegetables arrived at City Point about the 2d of July, and through the cheerful exertions of Dr. J. H. Douglas, the Assistant Secretary of the Commission; Drs. Macdonald, Stevens and Swalm, Inspectors; Mr. Anderson, the transportation agent, and the other employees, without any exception, the onions were apportioned and delivered to the Division Commissaries of the respective corps, in time to make part of the Fourth of July dinner.

The Army of the Potomac received 514 barrels.

The Eighteenth Corps received 102 barrels.

The Tenth Corps received 107 barrels.

Wilson's Cavalry division received 12 barrels.

The aggregate number of barrels distributed for that occasion was 743.

On the 6th of July another distribution of 1,153 barrels was made under the direction of Lieut. Col. Morgan, Chief Commissary of the armies in the field.

Since that date there have been very large supplies received, not only onions, but of potatoes, cabbages, green and dried apples, canned tomatoes and pickles, all of which have been distributed among the men in the camps and trenches, and the patients in the hospitals. The figures show that for the eighteen days, beginning July 1, the Commission distributed 3,353 barrels of potatoes, 2,719 barrels of onions, 1,448 barrels of pickles, 865 barrels of assorted vegetables, 141 barrels of dried apples, — barrels of green apples, and still have a quantity of the less perishable stores on hand to be disposed of among the various corps.

From a personal investigation, I am able to say that the soldiers appreciate to the full extent the thoughtfulness of their friends, and from a hygienic point of view, the advantages of this liberal supply of fresh vegetables, is incalculable. Sheridan's cavalry are the only men in all the army from whom there has been heard a whisper of complaint, and that they were overlooked in the distribution, was not the desire, as I am certain it was not the fault, of the agents of the Commission. The failure, if traced to its causes, would be found to rest upon the Commissary Department of that organization; or, still more probable, in the miscarriage of the notification to send for the portion assigned for the cavalry.

For a very good reason, the Sanitary Commission at present will send no more vegetables to the army, the Government having a sufficient supply on hand to hold out until the end of this month. After the first of August, however, the Commissaries will no longer issue a ration of fresh vegetables to the soldiers; and, by an order of the War Department, a very general reduction of the entire schedule of rations is to take place from that date. The amount thus far issued during the war has been proved from actual experience to have been extravagantly large—far larger than the men could consume. Now the soldiers, in lieu of the curtailed rations, are to receive $16 per month, instead of $13 as heretofore.

The items of potatoes, molasses and, optionally, rice or beans, are to be altogether cut off, and the ration of flour or bread is to be reduced from twenty-two to eighteen ounces per diem. Here then is the opportunity for exercise by the public of a commendable generosity. Let the people promptly step in with their munificent offerings to supply what the Government will not. If fresh vegetables are so highly appreciated now, when an occasional and limited quantity is furnished by the Commissariat Department, will not the appreciation be immeasurably greater under the new order of matters next month? The people have only to understand these things, and feel confident that their gifts are properly applied, to insure no lack of these coveted and health-sustaining articles of diet. These vegetables must be furnished to the soldiers, and the Sanitary Commission will doubtless in some way see to that; but how can it add this immense tax upon its means without retrenching its disbursements in other directions? It is the privilege of friends at home to ameliorate by every method the hardships endured by their brave defenders in the field, and the past gives ample proof that they will not fail to exercise it with enthusiasm.

WORK OF RELIEF IN GRANT'S ARMY,

Mr. Smith reports from City Point, June 22:

I have the honor to submit the following report of my work in the field since leaving Washington for Belle Plain, May 11, 1864:

* * * * *

Finding that there was much to do for every one desirous of alleviating the wants and sufferings of our wounded men, I felt that the severity of the storm could offer no excuse for my delay in doing all in my power to comfort them. I found many of our men quite badly wounded, lying by the road side in the mud and rain, without rubber or woolen blankets to protect them. Many, who were more seriously wounded, I discovered lying in army wagons in bad condition, as nearly all had been cooped up in them for from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, and had been carried over very rough roads, in very uncomfortable positions, for a distance of twenty-five miles, without once having had the primary dressings of their wounds removed, or wet oftener than twice since starting on their journey. The bandages were found very much displaced and soiled, and in consequence there was much suffering from the heat and painfulness of wounds. It was my work to relieve these men, as well as I was able, by changing the positions in which their wounded and wearied limbs had been lying for many hours, and to dress and wet such wounds as seemed to have been longest neglected, and gave rise to most suffering. All I met with were bearing their fate with indescribable calmness and fortitude.

* * * *

Coffee, tea, and crackers were freely distributed by the agents of the Commission, whose headquarters were established at a point favorably located for the work.

The wounds, as far as my observations extended, were generally doing remarkably well.

In the afternoon of May 12th, I found in one wagon, Lieut. ———, 20th Massachusetts Volunteers, who was shot by guerrillas, while lying in the wagon on his way to Belle Plain. He was in a critical condition, having been wounded at the front in an engagement, and being on his way to hospital when he was shot again. This, to me, was a heart-rending case; the former wound* not being fatal, and honorably received, while the latter would without doubt cost him his life. I gave him some wine and soft crackers, and ordered some beef tea, and dressed his wounds. Same day I went to ambulance park of 5th and 9th Corps, with Dr. E. Harris. Here I found 600 men seriously wounded, many having had their limbs amputated.

* * * *

The same supplies, in kind, were given to wounded of 5th Corps. All these men were in a very destitute condition, and the surgeons of the 5th Corps, and the steward of 9th, said the men must have suffered much for want of food, but for the timely arrival of our stores. The wounded in 9th Corps told me they had received no food, of substantial character, in thirty-six hours previous to my visit, and that their wounds had remained unlooked at for forty-eight hours. These men and their wounds and stumps were in bad condition in all respects; and thus they would be compelled, probably to lie eighteen hours longer before they could reach the wharf and the transports. I left bandages, lint, and adhesive plaster, also, for their use.

On May 13th I started on foot, in mud and rain, for Fredericksburg, and after going some distance fell in with Mr. Holbrook, who kindly offered me his horse for part of my journey. When about half way to the city, met several large squads of rebel prisoners. This evidence of our success brought much cheerfulness and apparent satisfaction to our men, both those who were trudging along with moderately severe wounds, and those on their way to the "front," who seemed now to be over-anxious to push along with alacrity. Arrived in city at 2½ P. M., pretty well drenched with rain. Reported to Dr. Dalton, at your request. He assigned me to

* Compound fracture of lower jaw.

duty in charge of two hospitals of 1st Div. of 6th Corps. I commenced work in the hospitals by dressing, that evening, such wounds as imperatively needed attention, and ordering from the storehouse of the Commission such supplies and articles as I felt would make my men comfortable. There were in the hospital 106 men—of these, 69 were slightly wounded, and 37 very seriously. The following morning dressing of all the wounded by myself had been entered upon, and I worked hard from 8½ A.M. till nearly 2½ P.M. This having been done, I was well satisfied with the condition of all the wounded, and of the cases which it was necessary I should personally attend to daily; the others being turned over to dressers and nurses. By this plan I saved much time, and in course of three or four days all was going on so nicely that one-half of the afternoon of each day was spent in dressing the wounds of men, who were to be found lying on nearly every street corner, without having had their wounds attended to from forty-eight to seventy-two hours. Many poor follows were crowded into damp, dark, ill ventilated stores, of which there are a great number in the city. These men frequently were found suffering much from long lying in one position, or from hunger or thirst, or painfulness of their wounds. In the half afternoons which I spent in going around looking after the wants of these neglected cases, and in relieving them, I am conscious of having done much good in the name of the Sanitary Commission.

* * * * * *

Soon after our arrival at Port Royal I went ashore, and inquired into the condition and needs of the wounded. Found most were lying in army wagons, parked about the supply depot of the Sanitary Commission, which had been established at this point before our advent. All the wounded with whom I conversed acknowledged they had enough to eat, and more; and expressed much gratitude towards the Sanitary Commission for the prompt manner in which its agents had come to their relief. Part of the materials of which the food was prepared were, I believe, furnished us by the Army Medical Department, under Dr. Cuyler, but the preparation and distribution were done by the agents of the Commission. These labors here were highly appreciated by our soldiers.

One of the most gratifying features of the Commission's work at this point was the interment of the dead, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Holstein, in a manner so orderly, respectful and solemn, that it attracted the attention of all, and elicited many expressions of gratitude, satisfaction and reverence, from the witnesses of these unpretending scenes of loyal devotion. No more imposing obsequies have I ever observed, and never have I experienced a more uncontrollable thrill of solemnity, than when I saw the bodies of our men, shrouded in their blankets, lowered into graves, unseen by friends and unknown to those whose loyal hearts urged them to this last sad but sanctifying duty. When I last visited the grounds there had been twenty-three interments. The graves were tastefully arranged in rows, and to each was a head-board, on which was inscribed the name, rank, company, regiment, and date of death of the deceased.

From Port Royal I accompanied the party to White House, which landing we reached in the afternoon of May 29th. There had been no considerable number of troops at this point until about two hours previous to our arrival. I was soon assigned to duty on shore. For several days I made it my business to look to the wants of our wounded and supply them, or direct such as were able where to find what they wanted. One long train of badly wounded men, numbering about 1,500, came in June 2d. I visited nearly all the ambulances, and asked the occupants if they had been fed, and had received coffee or beef-tea, &c. In every instance the reply was "Yes, the Sanitary men gave us something to eat," or words conveying the same meaning.

Up to June 4th I continued doing such work as came within my sphere, and in the doing of which benefit accrued to our sick and wounded men. My work for several days previous to this date was not done with the alacrity it demanded, for the reason that I did not feel well. The *malaise*, previously experienced, seemed to have culminated on afternoon of June 4th, and a severe attack of dysentery was the consequence. From this date till June 12th I was wholly unfit for any service, and then I should have declined work had not Dr. Fairchild been suddenly taken ill and started for Washington. I then succeeded him in duty on our boats, in which capacity I have remained up to present date.

The following extracts from Superintendent Harris's report, may serve to illustrate the difficulties of transportation with which the Field Relief Corps of the Commission have to contend in following the Army with supplies:

FROM BELLE PLAIN TO WHITE HOUSE.

On May 23d, Mr. John A. Anderson, Acting Associate Secretary in charge of the work of the Commission at Belle Plain, on the Potomac, at that time the base of supplies for the Army of the Potomac, placed me in charge of the land transportation of the Commission, then consisting of thirty-two four-horse wagons, exclusive of those at front, with instructions to exercise my

own judgment about conducting the train to the next base, which would probably be Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, twenty miles below Fredericksburg. The same day I received the following telegram from Mr. Knapp, dated Washington:—"Send the loaded wagons to Fredericksburg. Use your own judgment about the others; but supply Fredericksburg if you can."

All the wagons were loaded, and at 6.30 P.M., the train started in charge of Clark Emmons, wagon master, with orders to halt for the night at White Oak Church. In the morning the feeding station there, in charge of Mr. Doolittle, was broken up, the goods put in the wagons, and the train started for Fredericksburg, where I reported to Dr. Douglas, Associate Secretary, at 10 A.M.

The Post Quartermaster, Captain Stone, being in want of teams to move the wounded to the station at Falmouth, the Government horses being exhausted by the work put upon them, made a request for twenty-five of the Commissions' teams, which was granted by Dr. Douglas. These teams were engaged all night, making several trips from the various hospitals in the town to Falmouth.

The next day, (25th,) a similar request was made for ten teams, which was also granted by Dr. Douglas. These were at work all day and night, the Commission drivers remaining with their own teams, refusing, although nearly exhausted, to let strange men drive.

On the 26th, the Sanitary Commission steamer Kent arrived from Port Royal, in charge of Mr. Williams, and reported the other boats of the Commission at that place.

On the 27th a force was sent out to the Wilderness, to attempt the recovery of some of our wounded, abandoned there several days previously, and then in the hands of the enemy. A train of ambulances accompanied the expedition, to which was added a Commission four-horse wagon loaded with soft crackers, milk and stimulants, in charge of Mr. Wilcox, agent of the second Corps.

The wounded were recovered and brought in, the stores being distributed to them on the road,

On the 28th, Fredericksburg was abandoned by our forces. Leaving at 5 A.M., we arrived at Port Royal shortly after dark, and reported to Dr. Douglas. Before starting in the morning, Dr. ——— informed me that his brother, who was recovering from the small pox, had been left in one of the houses in town, and that he was unable to get him in an ambulance or on board the hospital boat, and that unless I could carry him in one of the wagons he would be left behind.

I had him placed in a spring wagon, and made him as comfortable as possible, and the next morning had the satisfaction of seeing him placed on board a boat bound for Washington.

The next day, (Sunday 29th,) the boats of the Commission left for White House, to which place the base of supplies was being changed. The wagons were loaded with a few additional sacks of grain each, and preparations made for starting the following morning. At 2 A. M., Monday, the train was in readiness to start, but having received permission from the Quartermaster, Capt. Blood, to ship a portion of the goods on a Government boat, I sent sixteen wagons to the river which were unloaded, with the exception of a few cases of underclothing, shoes, articles of diet and stimulants, and the goods placed in charge of William S. M. Blazier, agent of the Commission in the 6th Corps.

Having reloaded the wagons with forage, an effort was made to overtake the balance of the train, which had a start of about an hour. On reaching the picket-line the officer in charge refused to allow the train to pass, considering the danger too great. Consequently, we returned to camp to wait for the next escort.

The next day the place was evacuated by our forces. The train, consisting of about one hundred and fifty wagons, and guarded by a brigade of infantry and several regiments of cavalry, was in motion at 3 A. M., and we were at last on the road to White House. When about six miles from Port Royal we came across the remains of a train which had been attacked two nights previously by guerrillas. A number of wagons had been burned, while a few remained uninjured. Half a dozen dead mules were lying around, while a few others were quietly cropping the grass. The most horrible sight was three of our men lying on the ground dead—one with his head split open with an axe—to all appearances brutally murdered. Scouts were immediately sent out, and shortly returned bringing a man whom they found at a house near by.

At first he denied having had anything to do with the attack. After being questioned closely, however, he admitted that he was aware of the intentions of the party which made the attack, but had no power to prevent it. Five minutes were allowed him to prepare for death, which had the effect of bringing out his political sentiments. The moments of grace were spent in cursing the "Yanks." Seven balls through his breast soon sent him to account for it before a higher tribunal.

* * * * *

Thursday, June 2.—Reveille at 1 A. M. On the march at daylight. Reached the bank of the North Anna by 9, and crossed at 11 o'clock. At 2 P. M., arrived at Han-

over Court House, having traveled several miles off the direct road, being led by a guide whose proclivities were a little of the "secesh order," and who could not resist the temptation of leading the train where it would stand a fair chance of being captured. The plan was discovered in time, and the man properly taken care of.

At Hanover Court House were stationed the cavalry pickets on the extreme right of Gen. Grant's Army, which caused us to feel that we were near our journey's end. Parking the train, the teams were fed, and preparations were made for passing the night comfortably, with a heavy rain pouring down. At 6 P. M., however, such happy thoughts were dispelled, by the order to "hitch-up immediately." In a great hurry the train was put in motion, which continued through the night, the teams being driven on a trot wherever the condition of the road allowed it. At daylight, halted three miles from Old Church, and remained in park a few hours, when the firing being rather too near, a move was made towards the rear for about a mile, where we were out of range. The fighting continued all day, during which I issued to various surgeons the goods remaining in the wagons.

Saturday, June 14th.—Ten miles from White House. At 9 A. M. started, and on the road all day, arriving at dark, when I reported to Dr. Douglas.

The balance of the train arrived two days before, having come down the north bank of the Pamunkey, a much shorter route than that by which we came.

Everything in the train was in good order, owing to the efficiency of the Wagon Master, Clarke Emmons.

From White House to City Point.

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After the arrival of the Commission train at White House, the wagons were engaged in hauling stores to the front to supply the various hospitals and the wagons in the Field Relief Corps.

On the 19th ultimo, there were remaining at White House sixteen four-horse wagons—the balance of the train having been sent to the front several days previous, with orders to follow the army across the Peninsula to the new base, wherever it might be. The boats of the Commission left a week previous, and I was waiting the first opportunity to start with the remaining wagons.

Having been assigned a position in the Cavalry Corp's train, I drew the wagons in their proper place, and with others, patiently waited the return of Gen. Sherman's command, which was on a raid in the direction of Staunton, and which was to escort the train. On Sunday, (19th ultimo,) he was reported to have arrived at Dunkirk, eighteen miles north of White House, and was expected in the next day.

Monday morning, shortly after daylight, the entire camp was aroused by volleys of musketry and cannonading, but a heavy mist prevented anything being seen beyond a few rods.

Riding out to the outer line of intrenchments, I found the troops in line expecting an attack. The enemy had driven in the pickets, wounding one and capturing several. Returning to camp, I found that no orders had as yet been received; but in view of a sudden move, I had the teams watered and everything packed ready to be loaded. At 6.30 A. M., orders were received to hitch-up, and move the train across the river over the railroad bridge. After remaining there a few minutes watching the enemy, who appeared to be very busy about something, we saw their artillery run out from the woods and unlimbered. Immediately they opened fire from six guns, posted by sections in three different places, paying their compliments to the train which was huddled together on the open plain, presenting a beautiful mark.

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While here fourteen shells passed through the train, only two of which took effect, one striking a team horse and killing him; and the other passing through a wagon and out by the driver, doing no damage.

None of the men were injured, although several had narrow escapes.

By one o'clock the entire train was over the river in a place of safety, and the firing nearly ceased, the enemy having lost a caisson, and apparently had rather the worst of the fight.

Sheridan's command arrived during the afternoon and attacked the rebels, and by night succeeded in driving them beyond Tunstall's Station, on the Richmond and York River Railroad.

The following day the wounded of the cavalry began to arrive. Mrs. Husband and Miss Hancock, of Philadelphia, immediately began to prepare food for them. Happily we were able to supply them with plenty of crackers, milk, stimulants, and canned meats. For several days previous to this these two ladies had nursed and fed some twenty or thirty sick in the 13th Ohio cavalry.

In feeding these men our own rations were used, so that we were compelled to draw from the commissary.

On the 22d the train re-crossed the river, and remained near the landing until 12 o'clock, (midnight,) when the entire command began to move. The train, consisting of 860 wagons, stretched out along the road for eight or nine miles, and required nearly four hours for all of it to get in motion, consequently, as the Commission train brought up the rear, it did not start

until daylight. Reaching New Kent Court House about noon, a short halt was made to feed and rest. At 2 P. M., the march was resumed, and continued to the Chickahominy, which was crossed at Jones' Bridge.

The train parked for the night on the south bank of the river, with plenty of wood and water near at hand.

The advance had considerable skirmishing this day with the enemy, in which the 28th colored regiment behaved well for their first fight, charging and driving the rebels.

Thursday, 23d.—The order of march was to Charles City Court House, then on the river road, via Westover Church and Shirley to Haxall's, on the James. The train was in motion at 2 A. M., and marched about five miles, when a halt was ordered, which continued several hours, until the road could be cleared of the enemy, who was making strenuous efforts to cut and capture the train.

After six hours we started again, passing through Charles City Court House and along the river road, but the enemy finally compelled the train to haul in close to the river at a place called Wilcox's Landing, where preparations were made for passing the night. That night I sent a note by a tug going up, to Dr. Douglas, announcing our safe arrival.

Before the men had finished supper, orders were received to hitch up and get out of that place as soon as possible. Marching down the river by the road we came, and bearing to the right at Charles City Court House. Morning found us at a place called Wyanoke.

The fighting of yesterday was very heavy, and our loss considerable, especially in Gregg's command.

At Wyanoke, boats were in readiness to ferry the wagons across the river. The Commission train was the first to cross. On the south bank were two canal boats, over which the horses and wagons had to be landed. The drivers went to work with a will, and in an hour's time built a substantial bridge, by which the train was safely put ashore.

The heat that day was intense, and three of the teamsters were overcome by the effects of the sun, but soon recovered.

Selecting a good camping ground, we made preparations to stay a few days, provided the rebels did not interfere, which we could not have offered much opposition to, as not one man had been sent over to guard the wagons. The same afternoon Mr. Anderson came down on the tug Curtin, bringing a supply of rations for the men, and of stores for the wounded in the hospitals on the other side of the river.

The next day, (Sunday,) Dr. Douglas came down on the propeller Thompson, and proposed sending down boats the next day to carry the horses and wagons up to City Point, deeming it unsafe to attempt to go up the road without a guard. It was necessary to have the wagons at City Point as soon as possible, to haul to the front stores which were rapidly accumulating there.

Ascertaining from contrabands in the vicinity that no rebels had been seen around there for several days, and supposing there were none there, from the fact of their not showing themselves when twenty of them could have captured the train, I concluded to start in the morning and take the chances. There were, two Government wagons waiting to go through with the mail. Joining with them we raised quite a formidable party—and at daybreak on Monday started, and arrived at City Point at 8.30 A. M., without any adventure.

To Messrs. Doolittle, Davis, and Oscar Little, I am much indebted for the kind assistance they have rendered on the march.

SPECIAL RELIEF—HOMES AND LODGES.

Washington.

Mr. Abbott reports of the work accomplished at the Special Relief Office at Washington, and the Homes and Lodges under his supervision, for the quarter ending June 30th, 1864:

Special Relief Office.

Discharged Soldiers.

Number of discharged soldiers whose papers have been received and acted upon	447
Number of cases adjusted and applicants paid	326
Amount collected for the three hundred and twenty six applicants	$43,937.30

Back Pay.

Number of applications from men in hospitals for aid in obtaining the back pay due them	670
Number of certificates secured for back pay	657
Amount secured on certificates	$25,107.48

Naval Claims.

Number of naval claims filed	63
Number adjusted	43
Amount collected on naval claims	$ 5,525.01
Total amount collected for the quarter, through the agency of the office	$76,591.11
Number of drafts secured and forwarded	154
Amount of the 154 drafts	$13,964.96

The number who are availing themselves of this privilege, afforded by the Commission, of sending their money home by drafts, thus saving them the risk of losing or having it swin-

dled from them, is increasing. During the last month the number is nearly twice as great as any month previous.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Number of letters written in adjusting the cases acted upon, of sufficient importance to make a copy necessary.....1,665

A large number have been written, of which no copy has been taken.

PENSION OFFICE.

Number of pension claims filed	357
Number of claims for arrears of pay and bounty	47
Claims for pensions completed and allowed	189
Claims for arrears of pay and bounty allowed	6
Claims for pensions rejected	61
Number of *letters* written in full in adjusting the above cases	476
Blanks filled	689
Whole number of letters	1,165

THE HOME.

The report of Mr. P. J. McHenry, Assistant Superintendent, shows the amount of work accomplished at the Home, for the last quarter, to be as follows:

Whole number admitted	2,692
Number of lodgings furnished	7,767
Number of meals furnished	18,190

HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIVES AND MOTHERS.

Number admitted	444
Women	333
Children	111
Number of meals furnished for May and June	2,797
Number of lodgings furnished for May and June	1,017

LODGE No. 4.

Number of meals furnished to soldiers and ambulance drivers	20,510
Number of lodgings	4,706

Mr. John Kane, Superintendent of the Lodge since July 10, 1863, was discharged on the 23d of June, for disloyal utterances. His services and management of the Lodge were entirely satisfactory, but his sentiments were altogether too rebellious to be tolerated during the last few weeks of his services.

Mr. John Savall was placed temporarily in charge, and thus far I am well pleased with his management of the Lodge.

LODGE No. 5.

The work of this Lodge has been principally the furnishing of food, coffee, lemonade, and stimulants to the sick and wounded, arriving on the cars and hospital boats and transports, and while waiting to be removed to General Hospital. Not less than seventy or eighty barrels of crackers, and from six to eight thousand gallons of coffee, chocolate, lemonade and stimulants have been distributed to the sick and wounded from this Lodge.

ALEXANDRIA LODGE.

The importance of this Lodge has greatly diminished since the army moved its base of supplies from the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. However, its records will show that more than 20,000 soldiers, sick and wounded, have been provided with food and drinks from this Lodge, and more than 1,000 lodged during the last quarter.

The wounded that have been brought up on the hospital boats and transports, and sent into the general hospital of Alexandria, have all been provided with food and stimulants from this Lodge, whenever they have required them.

HOME FOR INVALID SOLDIERS, BALTIMORE.

This Home has not been in operation two months, yet its record shows the following amount of work accomplished since it was opened:

Number of soldiers admitted	32
Number of soldiers wives admitted	30
Number of refugees admitted	27
Total	89
Number of meals furnished	615
Number of lodgings furnished	187
Number furnished Government transportation	23
Number furnished transportation by the Commission	19

The Home is situated at No. 62 Conway Street, near the Camden station; a convenient two-story brick house, well arranged for the work, for which a rent of $350 per year is to be paid. It has accommodations for about fifty persons.

The number of meals furnished at the Homes and Lodges in this city, Alexandria and Baltimore, during the last quarter, of which a record has been kept, was 42,112; number of lodgings, 14,677. The number of meals does not include the thousands that have been fed at the railroad stations and boat landings in this city and Alexandria, while waiting to be removed to General Hospitals.

This report of the operations of the Special Relief Office and the several Homes and Lodges, is far from being complete. There are thousands of little acts of kindness, relief and aid

furnished which really make up the best part of the special relief work, that it is impossible to enter into our records, and consequently the most interesting portion of the work is never exhibited in a report.

In conclusion, it is a pleasant duty to bear testimony to the faithfulness and zeal of my associates in the work of special relief, in the performance of their duty, and also the uniform kindness with which we have been treated by the officers and clerks in the various departments of the Government, and all others with whom our business has brought us in contact.

HOME HOSPITAL.

Surgeon Nichols reports of the Home Hospital under his charge for the month of June, 1864:

Cases treated	183
Different diseases	18
States represented	17
Deaths	2
Visits to Soldiers' Rest	10
Outside prescriptions	60
Wounds dressed	500

NEW ORLEANS.

Mr. Bullard reports:

The Soldiers' Home has been eminently successful during the past month, and its utility has manifested itself with unusual force at this particular season, when, on account of the advancing hot weather, many men were being furloughed and discharged from the different sections of the Department, of course daily gathering in New Orleans, to secure their pay and transportation. It is painful to think of the suffering that must have resulted from the entire absence of any such source of relief in this city last summer. Our experience this year is an index, in a degree, of what must have been last year; and probably the active campaign towards and at Port Hudson last year brought a large number of men to this city, who found neither Soldiers' Home nor other source of relief, in a community for the most part literally *secesh*.

The various movements of the army within the last few weeks, the apparent necessity to furlough or discharge many from the large numbers of men already broken down by disease in this trying climate, and the recent interruptions in the usual means of transportation, resulting from the seizure of boats for military purposes, have so crowded the Home that I found it necessary to enlarge the means of accommodation. More particularly the hospital ward was found insufficient. Some of the furloughed and discharged men from the regiments were barely able to reach the city, and in many cases they have been compelled to remain with us several days, waiting for pay or transportation. The only apparent remedy seemed to be to hire the building between the Soldiers' Home and our office. This additional building costs the Commission $30 per month.

The expenses of the Home have been larger the past month than usual. We have had more men to care for, and there have been more sick on our hands than during any month heretofore. Mr. Weaver and all the employees have worked faithfully, and have done themselves credit by their ready efforts to help the sick and needy. Our faithful little matron, Miss James, has been untiring in her attention to the sick, and many a poor fellow has left the Home, blessing her for her kindness.

It may be necessary to modify operations in the matter of exchanging certain rations, which heretofore have helped reduce the expenses of the Home.

I enclose Mr. Weaver's report. It speaks for itself, and shows a good month's record.

The whole amount of rations bought and issued to the men going home, via Cairo and New York, in June, is $598.63; of this amount, $501.65 was refunded by those having money. About thirty men, who were destitute, have been furnished with similar rations, at a cost of $97 to the special relief fund. Some of these cases were sick furloughed men, who could not eat the coarse Government rations usually drawn on furloughs. I think these funds have been well and charitably invested.

In the office work of the special relief individual cases of advice and assistance, aside from mere collection of pay, are constantly increasing. Much that is perplexing and unpleasant helps fill the daily office experience. Enough success crowns our efforts to bring increasing numbers of applicants.

During the month 165 cases have passed through the office for collection of pay. Amount collected, $26,649.10.

During the month of June the number of admissions has been 968; of meals furnished, 5,713; of lodgings, 17,193. Amount of money deposited for safe keeping, $22,396.48.

MEMPHIS.

During the month ending July 3d the number of admissions has been 1,592; of meals furnished, 3,894; of lodgings, 918; the amount of pay collected and paid over, $832.39.

NASHVILLE.

During the month ending July 2d the number of admissions has been 3,204; of meals fur-

nished, 9,921; of lodgings, 3,413. Transportation has been procured for 2,482; and the amount of pay collected and paid over has been $2,568.48.

CAIRO.

During the month ending June 27 the number of admissions has been 6,696; of meals furnished, 14,046; of lodgings, 3,338; and transportation has been furnished for 289.

DETROIT.

11,885 meals and 4,704 lodgings have been furnished.

THE SANITARY AND CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS.

Rev. J. P. Thompson, of New York, having lately returned from a visit to General Sherman's army, as a delegate of the Christian Commission, has written for the *Congregationalist* several articles, giving an account of his experience at the front. Dr. Thompson had very favorable opportunities for seeing the methods and working of both the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, although his stay was short. He was present at the battle of Resaca, and had much to do in alleviating the sufferings of the wounded, and in soothing the spirits of the dying. He was in many hospitals all the way from Louisville down, and saw and helped with his words of good cheer many sick and discouraged soldiers.

Dr. Thompson's opinions are so widely and so highly valued, that the following extract from one of his communications to the *Congregationalist* will be read with interest by all the friends of the soldiers who wish them to receive the largest benefit possible from the efforts made in their behalf. Dr. Thompson says of the two Commissions:

Our personal observation, and an extensive comparison of views with those most competent to judge, have convinced us that some arrangement must be made at headquarters of the Christian and Sanitary Commissions, to ensure their harmonious working upon the field. In the West this harmony already exists to a commendable degree. It is favored by the leading minds of both Commissions, and is practically hindered only by the incompetent or ill-advised subordinates of either.

A few simple facts and principles in this matter are so obvious, that the public will insist upon their being regarded by the two Commissions.

1. The work of the Sanitary Commission is indispensable to the best physical condition of the army, and to the prompt succor and relief of the wounded.

2. Its purely humane object enables it to appeal to the widest range of sympathies, and to draw from the amplest field of resources.

3. Its thorough systemization enables it to act with a high degree of efficiency, and with a small percentage of waste.

4. Its principle of distribution, through the official requisition of the medical direction of the army, with a limited discretion of personal distribution by its agents, is obviously the sound principle, and secures to this Commission the proper facilities for access to the army.

5. The composition of the Commission is a guaranty against either sectarianism or irreligion in its prevailing tone. That some members of the Commission may have sought to give it a sectarian bias is possible; that some of its agents have been men of irreligious character is true; but these are evils that can and will be rectified by the Commission itself under the healthy action of public opinion.

6. The Christian Commission is of incalculable importance to the moral and spiritual welfare of the army. It can hardly be over-estimated. For its long winter ministrations when the army is in quarters, and for its steady work in hospitals, as also for the general superintendence of a department, it should have men of wisdom and experience, who will devote their time to the work for months and even for years. Such men are the Rev. E. P. Smith at Nashville, and his worthy coadjutor, Mr. Ewing. Some, however, have been employed in this work who had nothing to recommend them but religious zeal. The special ministration of the Commission when the army is in an active campaign, opens a field for temporary agents, and especially for pastors, who know how to deal with the souls of men, under every variety of experience.

7. To further their spiritual ministrations, the agents of the Christian Commission should be furnished with sanitary stores, and should be able to contribute to the physical comfort of the soldiers *upon equal terms with the agents of the Sanitary Commission.*

8. But in order to do this, it is not necessary that there should be two sets of warehouses, two systems of transportation, two distributing agencies over all the army field, nor that the Christian Commission should enter into competition with the Sanitary Commission in raising material stores for the army. A compact can be made between the two Commissions by which the agents of the Christian Commission shall draw supplies from the Sanitary,

as a matter of rule and of right, to be distributed under regulations jointly agreed upon.

9. By this system the Christian Commission can stand before the churches upon the high ground of its blessed spiritual work, and for this it will draw to it all the resources that it can possibly expend.

10. Pastors and churches must and will insist upon this common sense economy in the administration of these two great kindred charities. All which is submitted with deference to whom it may concern.

New York, *June* 6.

THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

The following extracts from the reports of our agents will serve to give an idea of how our work is progressing in this quarter:

M. C. Read.

Chattanooga, *July* 1, 1864.

I have telegraphed you in regard to a supply of smoking and chewing tobacco, and a supply of anti-scorbutics at this point. Tobacco may seem to be of little importance, but very many of the men have been long accustomed to its use; they have been fighting almost constantly for weeks, constructing earth-works at night, sleeping in the trenches, and with arms in their hands most of the time. Sutlers are not allowed to follow the army, and men have no means of supplying themselves with this article which custom has made a necessity. Ought we not to furnish it for them?

The want of vegetable food is a more serious matter still. The constant excitement and constant labor of the campaign, are telling upon the strength and health of the men. "Scurvy" is becoming a frequent word in hospital reports, and calls from the front for vegetables for distribution to the regiments are becoming very urgent. Yesterday a surgeon came in on order from General Thomas, for transportation for three car loads of sanitary stores for his division.

Our efforts have been so long directed for providing for the wounded and sick, that we had nothing to send.

So urgent is the demand, that after advising with Dr. Wright, the Assistant Medical Director, I have ordered one car load, (three hundred bushels of onions,) to be gathered from the garden to-morrow, and sent forward to the regiments needing them most; true, in three weeks these three hundred bushels would make six hundred or more, if allowed to mature, but I believe they will be of more value now than they would then. Ten thousand barrels of pickles, kraut, and cabbage, with a good supply of ale, would be worth ten thousand men if they could be got to the army at once. Cannot something be done in this matter, and at once?

I am confident I can get transportation for that amount immediately, and that it can be pushed promptly through and distributed to the men. It will involve a large outlay, but it will pay, and a thousand fold, if it can only be done. If a movement is made in this direction, and you will telegraph me how many cars are needed, and where, I have no doubt but that the necessary orders can be secured to obtain them promptly, or you can doubtless secure them through the Assistant Surgeon General.

Mr. Sutliffe and Rev. O. Kennedy have reported, and go down to-night, one to take charge of the station at Dalton, and the other at Kingston. We have three stations (at Kingston, Dalton, and Resaca,) for feeding the wounded in transit from the front, while the prompt attention that all receive on arriving here, through arrangements made by the Post Medical Director, Dr. F. Salter, renders additional help at this point to the men coming in and going out unnecessary. The preparations are now ample for securing refreshments to the men in transit, and there can be no just complaints, except in rare instances.

For the wounded, we need milk and beef in large quantities, and large shipments of stores, in variety. Beef is indispensable at all stations for the refreshment of the wounded, as it can be promptly prepared, and there are many who can take little else.

I have such word from the front that I shall delay sending the onions for a day or two. But all reports confirm the idea that it is essential that something on a large scale be done for the men not yet sick.

Dr. Read.

In the Field, near Kenesaw Mt.

So far as I could by telegraph, I informed you why I took the responsibility of coming here, instead of meeting you in Nashville, as directed.

Telegrams from the Medical Director, asking us to aid in feeding the wounded to be sent back immediately, and again the great number of wounded, seemed to me to require all my attention here.

The feeding of the wounded on the road from Big Shanty to Chattanooga is now, perhaps, the most important part of our work. The trains are run with great irregularity, being sometimes forty-eight hours in making a hundred miles. The men have been sent sometimes without rations, and have not been always sure of drawing them on the way. Such is the irregularity that it is deemed necessary to keep open three refreshment stations, one at Kingston, at

Resaca, and at Dalton. Mr. Eno has undertaken to superintend this work, and to do it reasonably well will require great effort, as we have not and cannot immediately obtain sufficient cooking utensils. We make beef soup, coffee, and milk punch, and furnish soft crackers. Sometimes the trains cannot stop long enough, and thus we are defeated in our best efforts. But application has been made to the Medical Director to secure a longer stoppage of trains.

I find a large general hospital at Big Shanty. The surgeon in charge, Dr. Woodward, offered me rooms, and I sent back to Acworth for stores, as the wants of this hospital, and the gradual advance of our army, seemed to demand that our stores should be brought nearer.

Mr. Tone I found quite unwell. Mr. Mason goes to his aid. I also telegraphed our agents in Stevenson and Huntsville to come to Chattanooga, bringing all that belongs to the Commission; they are wanted much more here now.

The sick and wounded are to be sent back as soon as possible, but only that they may make room for others. The campaign is arduous beyond description. There is a good deal of scurvy among the men. Everything possible should be done to bring forward stores, especially milk, beef, and crackers.

These are the staple articles. So far, we have clothing sufficient, and no more men need be sent back without a change, if really destitute.

Fans are much in demand. Ice at Chattanooga is a great blessing, and is faithfully appropriated. It has come through in good condition, with little waste.

Within a few days at furthest, large demands are likely to be made on us for stores, and everything possible should be done to furnish means for curing or preventing scurvy as well as for taking care of the wounded.

Rev. Mr. Ingraham.

Nashville, *July* 1, 1864.

One who is earnestly engaged in the work of the Sanitary Commission finds but little time to write. There is so much to be done, such a field of labor before him, that he begrudges the very time it takes to write, for as long as he can move, he feels that he must be at work, doing some one good, and when he can no longer work, then he cannot write, and yet writing is work, and a good work.

There are many incidents every day occurring which, if recorded and published, would make the hearts of the soldiers' friends most gratified.

An instance of this kind occurred to-day. It had been telegraphed early in the morning to the Medical Director and to the Sanitary Commission, that trains of wounded men would be in during the day. At once the Sanitary Commission made its arrangements to receive them with some little refreshments.

Drs. Castleman and Webster, two gentlemen untiring in their labors at all times for the sick and wounded, obtained a detail of half a dozen soldiers to assist, with one or two of the young men of the Commission, and hastened to the depot. There were already their boxes and barrels, their buckets and cups. Very soon the barrels were filled with water and ice. Baskets were filled with fine soda and other delicate crackers. Cans of condensed milk were opened and poured into buckets. Then bottles of pure whisky were emptied into a barrel of iced water, and when this was sufficiently strong, then the milk was poured in, stirred up, and presto!—there was a barrel of the finest iced milk punch—punch that made some of the gasping bystanders almost wish that they themselves were wounded in their country's cause.

Scarcely were the preparations completed than a train came rushing up to the platform. This in a few minutes time was followed by another, and then not long after, by a third, the whole number of wounded being between three and four hundred; and this is the way they have been coming in here for a week or two past. For they are clearing out all the hospitals at the front, those who can be moved, as well as sending up the later cases of men slightly wounded.

One of these trains was the regular Hospital Train, containing one hundred and twenty-five patients, (forty-two of these having each lost an arm, and twenty-three having each lost a leg,) under the charge of Dr. Barnum, and whose wounded have therefore needed but little at our hands. Every man had been carefully watched and provided for the whole distance from Chattanooga through. The other cars were box or freight cars, some of them with rough seats made of boards nailed temporarily to cleets, and others were provided with shuck mattresses, on which the worst wounded were laid. There were sixteen of these cars in one train, and all filled with wounded men. These cars are very close and hot. There are no conveniences for sick men—no communication from one car to another, and when the train is in motion, if water or food is to be taken to the men, it has to be carried along the top of the cars, and then handed in at the little windows at either end, or reached down into the doorway, and of course, with the best of surgeons and nurses, but little can be done for their comfort; and when the trip, which is seldom less than twenty-four hours from Chattanooga, is unusually long, the suffering is very great.

On one of these trains that came in within a day or two, the men had had nothing to eat for twenty-four hours. The Sanitary Commission had provided refreshments at one of the stations, but through some cause the train did not stop.

You can easily imagine how such refreshments as those above mentioned were received at the depot here. Being so simple, all of both sick and wounded could partake of them. As soon as the train stopped, each car was entered with a basket of crackers, and a basket of punch. The crackers were first distributed. The poor fellows seemed thoroughly exhausted. They looked surprised at our entrance, but said nothing. "Have you had anything to eat lately?" Not since yesterday noon. "Have you had any water?" Yes, some. "Well, here are a few crackers for you." "Thank you." They were too much exhausted to waste strength in words. A large handful was given to each man, as he stretched out his hand for them, or asked to have them laid at his side.

Then, "here is some milk for you." Again a few feeble "I thank you's," as cups brimming full were handed to each man. One good swallow and a change came over them. "That's first rate." "Bully for you—hav'nt tasted anything so good in a year," &c., &c. One of them was an Irishman; he drank and smacked his lips, and says he, "that is *good* milk," it tastes just like the milk from my own mother's cow. "I reckon it does," answered another, "for yer own mother's cow was a whiskey barrel, wasn't it?" And so their jokes and spirits rose, as they felt the effect of the stimulating "spirits" that had gone down. Now all this was but a comparatively little work, and one hardly worth writing about, only that it is just such little attentions on the part of the Sanitary Commission or any one else, and attentions which they who bestow do not like to write about, that the friends of the soldiers at home desire to know are given, and the knowledge of which gladdens and encourages their hearts.

Rev. J. H. Hazen.

Nashville, *June 25th*, 1864.

After my trip in the hospital train, which I have already noticed, according to your request, I reported to Judge Root, at Nashville, who sent me forward to Chattanooga. On arriving, I received a telegram from Dr. Read, then at Dalton, calling for all the help that could be spared. I started immediately, arriving at Dalton at 10 P. M.; found that Dr. Read had already nine wagons loaded with battle-stores for the field, which he requested me to take charge of and go forward to the battle ground of the previous day, near Resaca. About 11 P. M., in company with Mr. Brundritt, Pocock, Murray and others, we started, traveling all night, most of the distance on foot. We arrived just at daylight at the hospital of the 3d Division of the 4th Corps. Left Mr. Pocock with a wagon-load of stores and proceeded to the 1st Division. Left Murray with another load and went to the 2d Division, where I remained with two loads, one for reserved supplies, and sent Mr. Brundritt with three other men to the 23d Corps.

I commenced my work of distribution, and continued it personally until all of my division was well supplied. I then took a list of all casualties in my division, four hundred and thirty-eight names, made my report to Mr. Hoblit, and remained with my division until the hospital was broken up. I then superintended the removal of the men to the railroad at Resaca, furnishing every one not able to sit up with a good comfortable bed, and making others as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. Having sent back the wounded from Resaca, I secured rooms, and, in company with our good and most efficient agent, Mr. Tone, cleared them and opened the goods we had left, for the purpose of feeding the men on the way to Chattanooga. At the request of A. A. Medical Director, Dr. Hubbard, and of Dr. Coolidge, Medical Inspector, I superintended the loading of the cars with the wounded, and in two days we transported more than two thousand men.

This work done, a good supply of stores having arrived, Mr. Tone and I turned our attention to furnishing the hospitals about town and in the field. While engaged in this work, I received a telegram from you, directing me to report to Dr. Barnum for duty on hospital train, which order I obeyed forthwith, and ever since have been doing what I could as an assistant.

Mr. Culbertson.

Knoxville, *June 30th*, 1864.

I am sorry to inform you that the garden will not be so much of a success as others and I have anticipated, the ground being much poorer than it was thought to be when selected. Besides, the worms and bugs have been very numerous, so much so as to destroy even onions and beets—a thing I never knew before.

The first beans I planted failed to come up, but the second planting are up nicely. Had the first come up and done well, I think that I could have issued at least a hundred bushels a week, for the last two and the coming two weeks. The lettuce and radishes proved almost an entire failure, seed being bad, and the ground poor.

Onions will show, perhaps, a third of a crop; dry weather, together with the worms which eat off the tap roots, having nearly destroyed them. Peas did as well as could be expected in such ground, and I am sorry that I had no seed to plant a late patch. The "boys" enjoyed what there were much, and often speak of the benefit derived from the Sanitary Commission.

Early cabbages are looking finely. The past few days there has been a small black bug working on them, but I think that they will come out all right as they have so good a start. Tomatoes look very well, and I have some five acres in. Potatoes, I hope, will be a fine crop; it, of course, depends on the future season entirely; they have suffered much and still do. I have ground prepared for late cucumbers, and am waiting for rain to plant. I want to get as many turnips in as I possibly can, and think that they will be among the most profitable vegetables for hospitals.

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Mr. Brown.

Leavenworth, *July 1st*, 1864.

Both Post and General Hospitals at Fort Leavenworth are full, and many have to be treated outside. Lawrence, Olatha, Paola, Humboldt, and Pleasant Grove, are field hospitals, with very poor accommodations. I found both officers and sick men very glad to see an agent of the Sanitary Commission. Everything that I furnished was very thankfully received.

Fort Scott Hospital is full, and tents are being used for those that are being constantly sent in from below. Dr. C. C. Slocum has gone again to Fort Gibson, and Tallagua hospitals—will report when he returns. I have requisitions from Kansas City, Independence, Westport, and Pleasant Hill, but am out of supplies of such kinds as are most needed. The country is so new, that all articles of the fruit kind are difficult to obtain, and our sick men suffer with all that class of diseases induced by constant use of bacon. Again, we have been threatened with raids of bushwhackers along the entire border of the State, which has kept our soldiers constantly on rapid movements, many times far beyond their power of endurance. The state militia and citizens, in many parts are called out to aid in defence of the border against these desperate bushwhackers, that spare no man when they get into Kansas. All this extra exposure is bringing with it much sickness and consequent need of supplies.

Refugees, both white and colored, are now flooding Kansas—eight hundred and forty-one came in with the last return train from Fort Smith, over five hundred with the train before, and we have advices that thousands more will come. These are mostly women and children, and in most destitute, sick, and wretched condition. Officers in charge are constantly appealing to us as agents of the Sanitary Commission for relief for these unfortunate people, and I do wish it was in my power to do more for them than is possible with my present help, or supply of stores.

—

Mr. Jones.

Decherd, *July 5th* 1864.

The work here consists in providing food and drink for the sick and wounded soldiers going North on freight trains, mostly box cars, sometimes furnished with straw or leaves, and often without either. There pass from one to three of these trains daily, each carrying from one to three hundred men. To enable us to do this work we have procured two box cars, one of which we use as kitchen and pantry, and the other as storeroom and sleeping room for four detailed men. The kitchen is furnished with a convenient stove and furniture, and everything necessary to enable us to prepare soup and coffee promptly for any reasonable number of men that a single train can bring. The officers of the army at this post sympathize with our work, and cheerfully render all needed assistance. Col. McConnell, commanding, is building an ice-house, mostly with material abandoned by former secesh owners, and with no expense to us, except for nails, &c.

The Assistant Quartermaster hauls our water from a spring half a mile distant, and the institution is now in very good working condition. If the management was to be permanent or to continue through the winter, larger and more comfortable quarters would be necessary, but for the summer campaign, I think the proposed results can be achieved with our present accommodations.

There seems to be necessary some management by which we shall receive reliable advices by telegraph of the coming trains. Sunday we received a dispatch saying that two trains, filled with wounded men, would be due here at 11 P. M. We made suitable preparations, but they did not come. Such circumstances occasion much waste and loss of time. Then, again, trains come in without notice, and we are unable to provide for them as bountifully as we should be glad to. We are trying, however, to have this matter arranged.

Last evening at 11 o'clock, a train came in with about three hundred wounded and sick men. We gave them beef soup, crackers, and coffee. Their crowded, uncomfortable, and exhausted condition indicated great need of such refreshment—the eagerness with which it was received, and the expressions of satisfaction and gratitude which it elicited, could not fail to warm the

hardest heart with the consciousness that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and with the conviction that there is an element of Divinity in goodness.

Besides the four detailed men we have four colored men. We board on the car. I sleep at the tavern.

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MR. ENO.

KINGSTON, GA., *Ju'y 8th*, 1864.

The enclosed report of disbursements at this place to 1st July, shows for itself what has been done at one of the stations in front. I presume you have the report from Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Resaca, and Dalton, as they were left in Chattanooga.

The stores forwarded to stations in front from this place will appear in Mr. Van Dyke's next report.

Besides distributing sanitary stores, a very important work is being done in preparing and giving refreshments to the wounded on trains going to Chattanooga.

The first was prepared at Dalton on the 17th of May, and the first four days 1,500 were supplied with hot coffee, soup, and crackers. Each of the stations, Dalton, Resaca and Kingston, are now well prepared to feed any number at short notice. Another station will be arranged to-day at Marietta, Mr. Kennedy or Norton in charge.

In doing this work, it is no more than justice to say that the Government are giving us every facility necessary, and we are also under many obligations to the gentlemanly officers of the different posts, and at Resaca and Kingston, the Christian Commission have rendered very efficient aid in distributing to the sick and wounded.

The importance of provision being made for the sick and wounded on trains can only be fairly estimated by those who know and feel the vexatious delays on the road. They are from 24 to 48 hours in reaching Chattanooga, and all this time riding in freight cars, without a blanket for a bed, and no chance for refreshments except at Sanitary stations.

Men in such situations fully appreciate the work, and bless their friends at home for sustaining the Sanitary Commission. Besides coffee, soup, and crackers, we now give them sandwiches, punch or ale, and the men are also instructed to furnish plenty of fresh water to wash their wounds and fill canteens.

Up to 1st July there had been given out at this station,

495 gallons of coffee,
243 " ale,
175 " punch,
465 lbs. crackers,

To 5,630 sick and wounded. The station was out of crackers a few days and had to use hard bread. Arrangements are now made for light bread, which will be used with cold ham to make sandwiches.

Mr. J. W. Van Dyke has been in charge of the station since Mr. Barret left. In him the soldier has a good friend and the Commission a very efficient agent.

HOSPITAL SKETCHES.

NASHVILLE, *July* 6, 1864.

To-day, visited Hospital No. —. Nearly all the patients that, but a few days since were there, have now gone, and new faces everywhere not "greeted," but *gazed* at me. And so many of them! Every bed, every ward, and even the halls were filled with the newly wounded. As there was either a nurse or a patient in every ward who knew me, it was soon whispered among them, that their visitor belonged to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and that he was a clergyman also. Very soon his kind inquiries after their health and comfort were returned by questions on their part. "Do you belong to the Sanitary Commission?" "Well, that's good." "Can you get me a pair of crutches?" "Can you get me an arm-sling?" "Could you get me some letter-paper and stamps, I hav'nt had a chance to write home for three months."

"Chaplain, will you please to come this way?" The Chaplain goes. "Please stoop down." The Chaplain begins to expect some expression of religious feeling. "Did I understand that you belong to the Sanitary Commission?" "Yes, sir." "Well, that is just the best institution that ever was. I believe that some of us would have died at Resaca, but for that. But Chaplain, do you think you could do me a great favor?" "I will try. What is it?" "Why, I am almost dead for a chew of tobacco. Hav'nt had any for two months, and hav'nt got a cent of money. I know 'taint just right, Chaplain, for a man to have such habits, but then when a fellow's got so used to it," etc.

The Chaplain promises all these men, and many others, that their wants shall be soon supplied, and, having made a note of all, passes on into other wards, with a kind word and inquiry at almost every bed. Directly he observes a patient, who seems to take but little interest in anything about him. Here is a case that requires more particular attention, for he is evidently very sick. Stooping down at his bed-side, the Chaplain asks him, in a very kind voice, how he gets along. "Very badly, sir." What is the matter? "Fever, sir, the doctor says." And fever it is, sure enough. The man is burning up with typhoid fever, which he took after having waded through a river breast-deep, and then being sent out to do picket duty, without an opportunity of drying his clothes. The Chaplain sits silently by his

side, thinking what he can do for him. "Please give me some water." The water is given him, but it is warm and insipid. "Nurse, have you no ice?" "No, sir." "Have you no acid or cooling drinks for such cases as this?" "No, sir, we are all out. The surgeon was saying to-day he wished we had some. When he comes around again I will remind him of it."

"Very good. But we cannot wait for that now. Take this order, and send it to the Sanitary storeroom for a couple of bottles of raspberry syrup, and make a drink for each of your fever patients." For the surgeon had assured the Sanitary visitor that he would be obliged to him for supplying any such want, whenever he should see it to be a case of need. Therefore the order was written and given to the errand boy; but before he leaves, the order is increased to one-half dozen bottles of blackberry cordial for the diarrhea cases, a few lemons for the scorbutic, a few slippers, and some dozen of fans for the fly-tormented wounded.

These wants attended to, a nurse approaches saying, "Chaplain, that man in the corner wants to see you." The Chaplain goes to him. He reaches out his thin withered hand, and says: "Chaplain, I am pretty sick. I don't allow that I shall get well. I've got consumption, and can't last long, and thought I would like to have you write to my woman and children for me, if it ain't too much trouble." "Certainly I will with pleasure, my friend. What is her name and address?" This being all carefully written out—"What shall I say for you?" "Tell her that I didn't get shot, but I did my duty in every fight, and never shirked. But I took cold and got sick, Tell her that I did want to get home to see her and the children, but—but—," and here the poor fellow broke down; soon, however, he recovered himself, and continued; "But God knows best. Tell her I havn't much for her. I made some little trinkets for keepsake, out of shell at Stone River; they are in my knapsack, and there is my testament, and there will be a little money coming to her. Tell her I have had everything done for me here. They have been very kind. And tell her to kiss the dear children for me, and to—to—meet me in Heaven."

He could say no more. Indeed, it was all he had to say. Having written the letter at his bed-side, and then after allowing him time to rest, the Chaplain returned to him and said: "Since you have made such thoughtful preparations for leaving this world, my friend, have you made any preparations for entering the next?" "Yes, sir. I have tried to do so. I have prayed; I have asked God's forgiveness for all the wickedness I have done, for Jesus' sake. He knows it all. He knows how I feel. He knows I am sorry enough. Will you pray for me?" After some further conversation, and reading from his testament, the Chaplain knelt and offered up a simple earnest prayer. The man was very much affected, and yet comforted. He thanked the Chaplain more by manner than by words, and begged him to come again very soon. The Chaplain returned the next morning; the sick man's bed was vacant—he had died during the night.

"Your visit did him so much good," said the nurse. "It seemed to be all he wanted," said another. Each one had a word to say, until requesting that all should be silent, the Chaplain addressed all within the ward upon the true hope of man in death, and then offering up prayers for each and all, he left them for awhile to their own thoughts.

Such is but a brief paragraph in the chapter of one day spent in hospital, by one of the hospital visitors and Chaplains of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

A REASONABLE REMONSTRANCE.

The following extract is from a letter written by one of the most intelligent of the Associate Managers of the "Women's Central Relief Association."

"In one of the late BULLETINS, (I think April 15th,) I noticed a request that each housewife in the country should, during the coming summer, prepare '*at least two bushels* of dried fruit.' Now it is evident that the person who made it knew very little about his subject. He could'nt have been a *coun'ryman*. In the first place, it is the farmer's wives from whom such supplies must come. The demands upon their time and strength, always heavy, are doubly oppressive in just the season when fruits are to be prepared, and it would take eight or nine bushels of the fresh fruit to make the quantity named. If *half* a bushel had been asked of each one, the amount would probably be larger than that you will now receive, for people always like to be praised for doing better than was asked of them. The already over-burthened housewife who hears herself coolly called upon for '*at least*' a month's labor, looks around upon her five or six little children, on the piles of accumulating sewing, on the ten or twelve 'hands' whose daily meals she is to provide, on the heavy work attendant upon the cheese-press or the butter-making, and on the necessary preparations to subsist the household during a long and tedious winter, and says, 'Well, I could prepare *a little*, but those Sanitary folks ask for so much that it's no use for *me* to try, let somebody else do it who has more time.'

"But I must tell you of one or two instances of self-devotion which have come

to my knowledge. The wife of a small farmer, in delicate health, with a large family, last summer gathered and prepared with her own hands, and sent two gallons of jelly, one of currant wine, five of prepared lackspur, (for vermin,) a bushel of dried fruits, and a barrel and a forty gallon cask of pickles, besides sending her daughters to walk two or three miles to an Aid Society to bring home sewing. Another is of a lady eighty-five years old, whose family have during the last winter made thirty bed-quilts, to more than one-third of which she made the linings from almost invisible pieces, besides knitting several pairs of socks. Such labors, although they may not amount to much in money, are no trifles to those who perform them.

"As 'country folks' must be better acquainted with such matters than city ones, I have ventured to speak of the request in the BULLETIN, in the hope that if further demands are made for pickles, &c., the quantity named may be more in proportion to the abilities of the housewife."

ON A HOSPITAL TRAIN.

Riding on a rail in the "Sunny South" is not the most agreeable pastime in the world. Don't understand me to refer to that favorite *argumentum ad hominem* which a true Southerner applies to all who have the misfortune to differ from him, especially to Northern abolitionists; I simply mean that mode of traveling that Saxe in his funny little poem, calls so "pleasant." And no wonder! To be whirled along at the rate of forty miles an hour, over a smooth road, reposing on velvet cushioned seats, with backs just at the proper angle to rest a tired head—ice-water, the last novel or periodical—all that can tempt your fastidious taste, or help to while away the time offered at your elbow, is indeed pleasant; but woe to the fond imagination that pictures to itself such luxuries on a United States military railroad. Be thankful if in the crowd of tobacco-chewing soldiers you are able to get a seat, and grumble not if the pine boards are hard and narrow. Lay in a good stock of patience, for six miles an hour is probably the highest rate of speed you will attain, and even then you shudder to see on either hand strewn along the road, wrecks of cars and locomotives smashed in every conceivable manner, telling of some fearful accident or some guerrilla fight. These are discomforts hard to bear even when one is well and strong; how much worse for a sick or wounded man. But thanks to the U. S. Sanitary Commission and to those gentlemen belonging to it, whose genius and benevolence originated, planned, and carried it out, a Hospital Train is now running on almost all the roads over which it is necessary to transport sick or wounded men. These trains are now under the control of Government, but the Sanitary Commission continues to furnish a great part of the stores that are used in them. My first experience of them was a sad one. A week before the army had moved forward and concentrated near Tunnel Hill. The dull, monotonous rumble of army wagons as they rolled in long trains through the dusty street; the measured tramp of thousands of bronzed and war-worn veterans; the rattle and roar of the guns and caissons as they thundered on their mission of death; the glittering sheen reflected from a thousand sabres, had all passed by and left us in the desolated town. We lived, as it were, with bated breath and eager ears, our nerves tensely strung with anxiety and suspense, waiting to catch the first sound of that coming strife, where we knew so many of our bravest and best must fall. At last came the news of that terrible fight at Buzzard's Roost or Rocky Face Ridge, and the evening after, in came Dr. S——, straight from the front, and said, "the Hospital Train is at the depot, wouldn't you like to see it!" "Of course we would," chorused Mrs. Dr. S——— and myself, and forthwith we rushed for our hats and cloaks, filled two large baskets with soft crackers and oranges, and started off. A walk of a mile brought us to the depot, and down in the farther corner of the depot yard we saw a train of seven or eight cars standing, apparently unoccupied. "There it is," said Dr. S. "Why, it looks like any ordinary train," I innocently remarked, but I was soon to find out the difference. We chanced to see Dr. Myers, the surgeon in charge, on the first car into which we went, and he made us welcome to do and to give whatever we had for the men, and so, armed with authority from the "powers that be," we went forward with confidence.

Imagine a car a little wider than the ordinary one, placed on springs, and having on each side three tiers of berths or cots, suspended by rubber bands. These cots are so arranged as to yield to the motion of the car, thereby avoiding that jolting experienced even on the smoothest and best kept road. I didn't stop to investigate the plan of the car then, for I saw before me, on either hand, a long line of soldiers, shot in almost every conceivable manner, their wounds fresh from the battle-field, and all were patient and quiet; not a groan or complaint escaped them, though I saw some faces twisted into strange contortions with the agony of their wounds. I commenced distributing my oranges right and left, but soon realized the smallness of my basket and the largeness of the demand, and sadly passed by all but the worst cases. In the third car that we entered we found the Colonel, Lieut. Colonel and Adjutant

of the 29th Ohio, all severely wounded. We stopped and talked awhile. Mindful of the motto of my commission, to give "aid and comfort," I trickled a little sympathy on them. "Poor fellows!" said I. "No, indeed," said they. "We *did* suffer riding twenty miles"—it couldn't have been more than fourteen or fifteen, but a shattered limb or a ball in one's side lengthens the miles astonishingly—"in those horrid ambulances to the cars." "We cried last night like children, some of us," said a Lieutenant, "but we're all right now. This Hospital Train is a jolly thing. It goes like a cradle." Seeing my sympathy wasted, I tried another tack. "Did you know that Sherman was in Dalton." "No!" cried the Colonel, and all the men who could, raised themselves up and stared at me with eager, questioning eyes. "Is that so?" "Yes," I replied, "It is true." "Then I don't care for this little wound," said one fellow, slapping his right leg, which was pierced and torn by a minnie ball. Brave men! How I longed to take our whole North, and pour out its wealth and luxury at their feet.

A little farther on in the car, I chanced to look down, and there at my feet lay a young man, not more than eighteen or nineteen years old; hair tossed back from his noble white brow; long brown lashes lying on his cheek; face as delicate and refined as a girl's. I spoke to him and he opened his eyes, but could not answer me. I held an orange before him, and he looked a Yes; so I cut a hole in it and squeezed some of the juice into his mouth. It seemed to revive him a little, and after sitting a short time I left him. Soon after, they carried him out on a stretcher—poor fellow! He was dying when I last saw him, and I could but think of his mother and sisters who would have given worlds to stand beside him as I did. By this time it was growing dark, my oranges had given out, and we were sadly in the way; so we left, to be haunted for many a day by the terrible pictures we had seen on our first visit to a Hospital Train.

My next experience was much pleasanter. I had the privilege of a ride on one from Chattanooga to Nashville, and an opportunity of seeing the plan of arrangement of the train. There were three hundred and fourteen sick and wounded men on board, occupying nine or ten cars, with the surgeon's car in the middle of the train. This car is divided into three compartments; at one end is the storeroom, where are kept the eatables and bedding; at the other the kitchen; and between the two the surgeon's room, containing his bed, secretary, and shelves and pigeon holes for instruments, medicines, etc. A narrow hall connects the storeroom and kitchen, and great windows or openings in the opposite sides of the car give a pleasant draft of air. Sitting in a comfortable arm-chair, one would not wish a pleasanter mode of traveling, especially through the glorious mountains of East Tennnesse, and farther on, over the fragrant, fertile meadows, and the rolling plains of Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee, clothed in their fresh green garments of new cotton and corn. This is all charming for a passenger, but a Hospital train is a busy place for the surgeons and nurses.

The men come on at evening, selected from the different hospitals, according to their ability to be moved, and after having had their tea, the wounds have to be freshly dressed. This takes till midnight, perhaps longer, and the surgeon must be on the watch continually, for on him falls the responsibility, not only of the welfare of the men, but of the safety of the train. There is a conductor and brakeman, and for them, too, there is no rest. Each finds enough to do as nurse or assistant. In the morning, after a breakfast of delicious coffee or tea, dried beef, dried peaches, soft bread, cheese, etc., the wounds have to be dressed a second time, and again in the afternoon, a third.

In the intervals the surgeon finds time to examine individual cases, and prescribe especially for them, and perhaps to take a little rest. To fulfill the duties of surgeon in charge of such a train, or endure the terrible strain on brain, and nerves and muscles, require great skill, an iron will, and a mind undaunted by the shadow of any responsibility or danger. All this and more has Dr. J. P. Barnum, who has charge of the train formerly running between Louisville and Nashville, but now transferred to the road between Nashville and Chattanooga. With a touch, gentle as a woman, yet with manly strength and firmness, and untiring watchfulness and thoughtful care, he seems wholly devoted to the work of benefiting our sick and wounded soldiers. All on board the train gave him the warmest thanks. As I walked through the car, I heard the men say, "we hav'nt lived so well since we joined the army. We are better than we were ever before. This is the nicest place we were ever in," etc. Should the Doctor chance to see this, he will be shocked, for modesty, I notice, goes in hand with true nobility and generosity; but I risk his wrath for the selfish pleasure that one has in doing justice to a good man.

After breakfast, in the morning, when the wounds were all dressed, I had the pleasure of carrying into one car a pitcher of delicious blackberry wine that came from the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio, and with the advice of Dr. Yates, the assistant surgeon, giving it to the men. The car into which I went had only one

tier of berths, supported like the others on rubber bands. Several times during the day I had an opportunity of giving some little assistance in taking care of wounded men, and it was very pleasant. My journey lasted a night and a day, and I think I can never again pass another twenty-four hours so fraught with sweet and sad memories as are connected with my second and last experience on a Hospital Train. C.

THE BLUE COAT.

The following ballad is from the pen of Bishop Burgess, of Maine, and was contributed by him to the book published and sold at the late Sanitary Fair in Baltimore, under the sanction of the State Fair Association of the Women of Maryland.

THE BLUE COAT OF THE SOLDIER.

You asked me, little one, why I bowed,
Though never I passed the man before?
Because my heart was full and proud,
When I saw the old blue coat he wore;
The blue great coat, the sky blue coat,
The old blue coat the soldier wore.

I knew not, I, what weapon he chose,
What chief he followed, what badge he wore;
Enough that in the front of foes
His country's blue great-coat he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

Perhaps he was born in a forest hut,
Perhaps he had danced on a palace floor;
To want or wealth my eyes were shut;
I only marked the coat he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

It mattered not much if he drew his line
From Shem or Ham, in the days of yore;
For surely he was a brother of mine,
Who for my sake the war coat wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

He might have no skill to read or write,
Or he might be rich in learned lore;
But I knew he could make his mark in fight,
And nobler gown no scholar wore
Than the blue great-coat, &c.

It may be he could plunder and prowl,
And perhaps in his mood he scoffed and swore;
But I would not guess a spot so foul
On the honored coat he bravely wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

He had worn it long, and borne it far;
And perhaps on the red Virginian shore,
From midnight chill till the morning star
That worn great-coat the sentry wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

When hardy Butler reined his steed
Through the streets of proud, proud Baltimore,
Perhaps behind him, at his need,
Marched he who yonder blue coat wore.
The blue great-coat, &c.

Perhaps it was seen in Burnside's ranks,
When Rappahannock ran dark with gore;
Perhaps on the mountain side with Banks
In the burning sun no more he wore
The blue great-coat, &c.

Perhaps in the swamps was a bed for his form,
From the seven days' battling and marching sore;
Or with Kearney and Pope 'mid the steely storm
As the night closed in, that coat he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

Or when right over as Jackson dashed,
That collar or cape some bullet tore;
Or when far ahead Antietam flashed,
He flung to the ground the coat that he wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

Or stood at Gettysburgh, where the graves
Rang deep to Howard's cannon roar;
Or saw with Grant the unchained waves
Where conquering hosts the blue coat wore.
The blue great-coat, &c.

That garb of honor tells enough,
Though I its story guess no more;
The heart it covers is made of such stuff,
That coat is mail which that soldier wore;
The blue great-coat, &c.

He may hang it up when the peace shall come,
And the moths may find it behind the door;
But his children will point when they hear a drum
To the proud old coat their father wore,
The blue great-coat, &c.

And so, my child, will you and I,
For whose fair home their blood they pour,
Still bow the head, as one goes by,
Who wears the coat that soldier wore;
The blue great-coat, the sky-blue coat,
The old blue coat the soldier wore.

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ON THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of New Hampshire, in General Court convened,

That the United States Sanitary Commission commends itself to our hearty support, and that we hereby testify on behalf of the soldiers and people of this State, to the benevolence of its principles and efficiency of its plans, as a means of promoting the welfare of the army.

Resolved, That we especially esteem the nationality of its views and declarations, by which all our soldiers, without distinction of place, are regarded as United States soldiers, and treated as such in all respects.

Resolved, That the Ladies' Aid Societies of New Hampshire, acting as they do in co-operation with the United States Sanitary Commission, are heartily commended to the continued support of our people, as the most suitable tributaries through which the contributions of New Hampshire may be distributed to the hospitals and camps of the army.

NOTES ON NURSING.

CONCLUSION.

The whole of the preceding remarks apply even more to children and puerperal woman than to patients in general. They also apply to the nursing of surgical, quite as much as to that of medical cases. Indeed, if it be possible, cases of external injury require such care even more than sick. In surgical wards, one duty of every nurse certainly is prevention. Fever, or hospital gangrene, or pyœmia, or purulent discharge of some kind may else supervene. Has she a case of compound fracture, of amputation, or of erysipelas, it may depend very much on how she looks upon the things enumerated in these notes, whether one or other of these hospital diseases attacks her patient or not. If she allows her ward to become filled with the peculiar close fetid smell, so apt to be produced among surgical cases, especially where there is great suppuration and discharge, she may see a vigorous patient in the prime of life gradually sink and die where, according to all human probability, he ought to have recovered.

Nevertheless let no one think that because *sanitary* nursing is the subject of these notes, therefore, what may be called the handicraft of nursing is to be undervalued. A patient may be left to bleed to death in a sanitary palace. Another who cannot move himself may die of bed-sores, because the nurse does not know how to change and clean him, while he has every requisite of air, light, and quiet. But nursing, as a handicraft, has not been treated of here for three reasons: 1. That these notes do not pretend to be a manual for nursing, any more than for cooking for the sick; 2. That the writer, who has herself seen more of what may be called surgical nursing, *i. e.* practical manual nursing, than, perhaps, any one in Europe, honestly believes that it is impossible to learn it from any book, and that it can only be thoroughly learnt in the wards of a hospital; and she also honestly believes that the perfection of surgical nursing may be seen practised by the old-fashioned "Sister" of a London hospital, as it can be seen nowhere else in Europe. 3. While thousands die of foul air, etc., who have this surgical nursing to perfection, the converse is comparatively rare.

To revert to children. They are much more susceptible than grown people to all noxious influences. They are affected by the same things, but much more quickly and seriously, viz., by want of fresh air, of proper warmth, want of cleanliness in house, clothes, bedding, or body, by startling noises, improper food, or want of punctuality, by dullness and by want of light, by too much or too little covering in bed, or when up, by want of the spirit of management generally in those in charge of them. One can, therefore, only press the importance, as being yet greater in the case of children, greatest in the case of sick children, of attending to these things.

That which, however, above all, is known to injure children seriously is foul air, and most seriously at night. Keeping the rooms where they sleep tight shut up, is destruction to them. And, if the child's breathing be disordered by disease, a few hours only of such foul air may endanger its life, even where no inconvenience is felt by grown-up persons in the same room.

The following passages, taken out of an excellent "Lecture on Sudden Death in Infancy and Childhood," just published, show the vital importance of careful nursing of children. "In the great majority of instances, when death suddenly befalls the infant or young child, it is an *accident;* it is not a necessary result of any disease from which it is suffering."

It may be here added, that it would be very desirable to know how often death is, with adults, "not a necessary, inevitable result of any disease." Omit the word "sudden," (for *sudden* death is comparatively rare in middle age;) and the sentence is almost equally true for all ages.

The following causes of "accidental" death in sick children are enumerated:—"Sudden noises, which startle—a rapid change of temperature, which chills the surface, though only for a moment—a rude awakening from sleep—or even an over-hasty, or an overfull meal"—"any sudden impression on the nervous system—any hasty alteration of posture—in short, any cause whatever by which the respiratory process may be disturbed."

It may again be added, that, with very weak adult patients, these causes are also (not often "suddenly fatal," it is true, but) very much oftener than is at all generally known, irreparable in their consequences.

Both for children and for adults, both for sick and for well, (although more certainly in the case of sick children than in any others,) I would here again repeat, the most frequent and most fatal cause of all is sleeping, for even a few hours, much more for weeks and months in foul air, a condition which, more than any other condition, disturbs the respiratory process, and tends to produce "accidental" death in disease.

I need hardly here repeat the warning against any confusion of ideas between cold and fresh air. You may chill a patient fatally without giving him fresh air at all. And you can quite well, nay, much better, give him fresh air without chilling him. This is the test of a good nurse.

In cases of long recurring faintness from disease, for instance, especially disease which affects the organs of breathing, fresh air to the lungs, warmth to the surface, and often (as soon as the patient can swallow,) hot drink, these are the right remedies and the only ones. Yet, oftener than not, you see the nurse or mother just reversing this; shutting up every cranny through which fresh air can enter, and leaving the body cold, or perhaps throwing a greater weight of clothes upon it, when already it is generating too little heat.

"Breathing carefully, anxiously, as though respiration were a function which required all the attention for its performance," is cited as a not unusual state in children, and as one calling for care in all the things enumerated above. That breathing becomes an almost voluntary act, even in grown up patients who are very weak, must have been remarked.

"Disease having interfered with the perfect accomplishment of the respiratory function, some sudden demand for its complete exercise, issues in the sudden stand-still of the whole

machinery." is given as one process;—"life goes out for want of nervous power to keep the vital functions in activity," is given as another, by which "accidental" death is most often brought to pass in infancy.

Also in middle age, both these processes may be seen ending in death, although generally not suddenly. I have seen, even in middle age, the "*sudden* stand-still" here mentioned, and from the same causes.

To sum up:—the answer to two of the commonest objections urged, one by women themselves, the other by men, against the desirableness of sanitary knowledge for women, *plus* a caution, comprises the whole argument for the art of nursing.

(1.) It is often said by men, that it is unwise to teach women anything about these laws of health, because they will take to physicing—that there is a great deal too much of amateur physicing as it is, which is indeed true. One eminent physician told me that he had known more calomel given, both at a pinch and for a continuance, by mothers, governesses, and nurses, to children, than he had ever heard of a physician prescribing in all his experience. Another says, that women's only idea in medicine is calomel and aperients. This is undeniably too often the case. There is nothing ever seen in any professional practice like the reckless physicing by amateur females. But this is just what the really experienced and observing nurse does *not* do; she neither physics herself nor others. And to cultivate in things pertaining to health, observation and experience in women who are mothers, governesses or nurses, is just the way to do away with amateur physicing, and if the doctors did but know it, to make the nurses obedient to them—helps to them instead of hindrances. Such education in women would indeed diminish the doctor's work—but no one really believes that doctors wish that there should be more illness, in order to have more work.

I have known many ladies who, having once obtained a "blue pill" prescription from a physician, gave and took it as a common aperient two or three times a week—with what effect may be supposed. In one case I happened to be the person to inform the physician of it, who substituted for the prescription a comparatively harmless aperient pill. The lady came to me and complained that it "did not suit her half so well."

If women will take or give physic, by far the safest plan is to send for "the doctor" every time—for I have known ladies who both gave and took physic, who would not take the pains to learn the names of the commonest medicines, and confounded, *e. g.*, colocynth with colchicum. This is playing with sharp-edged tools "with a vengeance."

There are excellent women who will write to London to their physician that there is much sickness in their neighborhood in the country, and ask for some prescription from him, which they used to like themselves, and then give it to all their friends and to all their poorer neighbors who will take it. Now, instead of giving medicine, of which you cannot possibly know the exact and proper application, nor all its consequences, would it not be better if you were to persuade and help your poorer neighbors to remove the dung-hill from before the door, to put in a window which opens, or an Arnott's ventilator, or to cleanse and lime-wash the cottages? Of these things the benefits are sure. The benefits of the inexperienced administration of medicines are by no means so sure.

Homœopathy has introduced one essential amelioration in the practice of physic by amateur females; for its rules are excellent, its physicking comparatively harmless—the "globule" is the one grain of folly which appears to be necessary to make any good thing acceptable. Let then women, if they will give medicine, give homœopathic medicine. It won't do any harm.

An almost universal error among women is the supposition that everybody *must* have the bowels opened once in every twenty four hours, or must fly immediately to aperients. The reverse is the conclusion of experience.

This is a doctor's subject, and I will not enter more into it; but will simply repeat, do not go on taking or giving to your children abominable "courses of aperients," without calling in the doctor.

It is very seldom indeed, that by choosing your diet, you cannot regulate your own bowels; and every woman may watch herself to know what kind of diet will do this; I have known deficiency of meat produce constipation quite as often as deficiency of vegetables; baker's bread much oftener than either. Home made brown bread will oftener cure it than anything else.

(2.) It is often said by women, that they cannot know anything of the laws of health, or what to do to preserve their children's health, because they can know nothing of "Pathology," or cannot "dissect,"—a confusion of ideas which it is hard to attempt to disentangle. Pathology teaches the harm that disease has done. But it teaches nothing more. We know nothing of the principle of health, the positive of which pathology is the negative, except from observation and experience. And nothing but observation and experience will teach us the ways to maintain or to bring back the state of health. It is often thought that medicine is the curative process. It is no such thing; medicine is the surgery of functions, as surgery proper is that of limbs and organs. Neither can do anything but remove obstructions; neither can cure; nature alone cures. Surgery removes the bullet out of the limb, which is an obstruction to cure, but nature heals the wound. So it is with medicine; the function of an organ becomes obstructed; medicine, so far as we know, assists nature to remove the obstruction, but does nothing more. And what nursing has to do in either case, is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him. Generally, just the contrary is done. You think fresh air, and quiet and cleanliness extravagant, perhaps dangerous, luxuries, which should be given to the patient only when quite convenient, and medicine the *sine qua non*, the panacea. If I have succeeded in any measure in dispelling this illusion, and in showing what true nursing is, and what it is not, my object will have been answered.

Now for the caution:—

(3.) It seems a commonly received idea among men, and even among women themselves,

that it requires nothing but a disappointment in love, the want of an object, a general disgust, or incapacity for other things, to turn a woman into a good nurse.

This reminds one of the parish where a stupid old man was set to be schoolmaster because he was "past keeping the pigs."

Apply the above receipt for making a good nurse to making a good servant. And the receipt will be found to fail.

Yet popular novelists of recent days have invented ladies disappointed in love or fresh out of the drawing-room, turning into the war-hospitals to find their wounded lovers, and when found, forthwith abandoning their sick-ward for their lover, as might be expected. Yet in the estimation of the authors, those ladies were none the worse for that, but on the contrary, were heroines of nursing.

What cruel mistakes are sometimes made by benevolent men and women in matters of business about which they can know nothing and think they know a great deal.

The everyday management of a large ward, let alone of a hospital—the knowing what are the laws of life and death for men, and what the laws of health for wards—(and wards are healthy or unhealthy, mainly according to the knowledge or ignorance of the nurse)—are not these matters of sufficient importance and difficulty to require learning by experience and careful inquiry, just as much as any other art? They do not come by inspiration to the lady disappointed in love, nor to the poor workhouse drudge hard up for a livelihood.

And terrible is the injury which has followed to the sick from such wild notions!

In this respect, (and why is it so?) in Roman Catholic countries, both writers and workers are, in theory at least, far before ours. They would never think of such a beginning for a good working Superior or Sister of Charity. And many a Superior has refused to admit a *Postulant* who appeared to have no better "vocation" or reasons for offering herself than these.

It is true *we* make "no vows." But is a "vow" necessary to convince us that the true spirit for learning any art, most especially an art of charity, aright, is not a disgust to everything or something else? Do we really place the love of our kind (and of nursing, as one branch of it) so low as this? What would the Mère Angélique of Port Royal, what would our own Mrs. Fry have said to this?

NOTE.—I would earnestly ask my sisters to keep clear of both the jargons now current everywhere, (for they *are* equally jargons;) of the jargon, namely, about the "rights" of women, which urges women to do all that men do, including the medical and other professions, merely because men do it, and without regard to whether this *is* the best that women can do; and of the jargon which urges woman to do nothing that men do, merely because they are women, and should be "recalled to a sense of their duty as women," and because "this is women's work," and "that is men's," and "these are things which women should not do," which is all assertion, and nothing more. Surely woman should bring the best she has, *whatever* that is, to the work of God's world, without attending to either of these cries. For what are they, both of them, the one *just* as much as the other, but listening to the "what people will say," to opinion, to the "voices from without?" And as a wise man has said, no one has ever done anything great or useful by listening to the voices from without.

You do not want the effect of your good things to be, "How wonderful for a *woman!*" nor would you be deterred from good things by hearing it said, "Yes, but she ought not to have done this, because it is not suitable for a woman." But you want to do the thing that is good, whether it is "suitable for a woman" or not.

It does not make a thing good, that it is remarkable that a woman should have been able to do it. Neither does it make a thing bad, which would have been good had a man done it, that it has been done by a woman.

Oh, leave these jargons, and go your way straight to God's work, in simplicity and singleness of heart.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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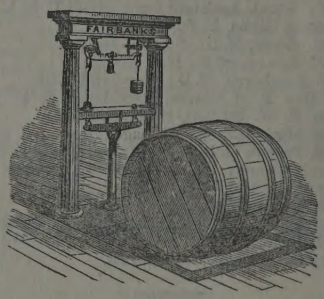

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